

WORLD'S BEST SHORE DIVING

SCUBA DIVING

THE MAGAZINE DIVERS TRUST

Photo Quest

THE WORLD'S TOP
UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHERS
MEET THE WORLD'S MOST
SPECTACULAR SUBJECTS

PERFECT ASCENTS

How to have a happy ending on every dive

KEEP IT DRY

9 bags and boxes built to keep the water out

Dive Cozumel Like A Veteran, p. 36

Snorkeler, diver, whale shark and photographer come together at Thailand's Richelieu Rock.

BAILOUT BOTTLES TESTED

Which ones get you back to the surface safely?

APRIL 2004

PUBLICATION MAIL AGREEMENT #40063752

**WE TURNED 50 MILES OF THE EARTH'S
TOUGHEST TERRAIN INTO A YARDSTICK.**



Jeep and Trail Rated are trademarks of DaimlerChrysler Corporation. *See dealer for a copy of this limited warranty. Transferable to second owner with fee. A deductible applies.



Photo taken from NATC testing.



	Traction
	Articulation
	Ground Clearance
	Maneuverability
	Water Fording

.....

THE JEEP TRAIL RATED™ SYSTEM.

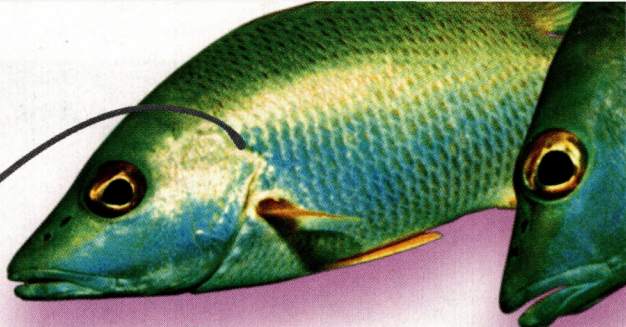

Nothing measures up to our TRAIL RATED Jeep 4x4s. All have passed a series of grueling off-road tests to provide true go-anywhere, do-anything capability. Which also provides you with a remarkable feeling of safety and control on those treacherous, overcrowded paved trails. Learn all about the TRAIL RATED Jeep 4x4s and their impressive 7-year/70,000-mile Powertrain Limited Warranty* at jeep.com/trailrated

.....

**IF IT'S NOT TRAIL RATED,
IT'S NOT A JEEP 4x4.**




JEEP.COM



You're not dreaming You're in Puerto Rico

PLUNGE INTO A PANORAMA OF EXOTIC



UNDERWATER ENCHANTMENTS:

SWIM AMONG SCHOOLS OF ANGELFISH,

TRACK THE HUNDRED-FOOT DROP OF A MASSIVE WALL,

EXPLORE IMMENSE GARDENS OF STAGHORN, ELKHORN,

GIANT BRAIN CORAL, AND THE EXTREMELY RARE BLACK CORAL.

JOURNEY THROUGH A MAZE OF ANCIENT CAVERNS, ALLEYWAYS, AND

TUNNELS. SPY ON AN OCTOPUS. FOLLOW A SEA TURTLE. THEN AFTER

SUNDOWN, SIT BACK TO AN EXQUISITE DINNER BY CANDLELIGHT



OVERLOOKING THE WAVES. SEEM LIKE PARADISE?

YOU'RE NOT DREAMING - YOU'RE IN PUERTO RICO.

Every diver has a story. What's yours?



(EDITOR'S NOTE)

How Has Diving Changed Your Life?

Tell us, and we might share your story with the rest of the world.

AS MUCH AS YOU MIGHT LOVE IT, you can't argue that diving is a convenient pastime. You can't wake up on a Saturday morning and decide to go for a 45-minute dive before the kids wake up, as you can with bicycling or running. You can't call a friend to meet you in 10 minutes for a quick fix, like you can with basketball or tennis or golf. To stay active in diving, you've got to commit some money, some time and some effort in planning.

So why do we do it? For lots of reasons, very few of which have to do with the simple mechanics of breathing under water. Like any personal passion, scuba diving leads to bigger things and, at the risk of sounding like a second-rate self-help guru, I would argue that, most often, it's a way for us to learn something about ourselves.

For many, it's a way to connect with friends and family and to forge new, unexpected relationships. For others, it's about the journey into an otherwise inaccessible world. And for others, it's about overcoming fears and attaining personal goals. Whatever your reasons, I want to hear your story. I want to hear about the extraordinary friendship that started on a dive boat. I want to hear about the incredible odds you overcame to make your dream dive. I want to hear the tale of how diving opened your eyes to a new realm of possibilities that sent you down an unexpected career path or on a voyage of self-discovery.

In short, I want to know how diving has changed your life and the lives of other divers you know. And I want to share the best stories with our readers. To tell us your story, go to www.scubadiving.com/lifechange. We'll choose the most incredible and inspiring stories to feature in an upcoming article. Shouldn't one be yours? —BUCK BUTLER

(HOT TOPIC)

THE THINGS THEY CARRY

What do you have in or on your BC? —IADIVER

Typically, I'll have an extra pair of snips and a small knife in a holster clipped inside one of the pockets, a snap ring for my console, and a patch of Velcro for my AIR 2. —

DIVEBUM EMT shears, dive knife and small light in one pocket. —JHINDS Sausage, foldable snorkel, writing slate, whistle and reflector. —

NOLATOM Two backup lights on shoulder straps, shears on waist, surface marker buoy, spool, reel when needed for planned penetration, and a whistle on left shoulder under the inflator. —

JETFINFAN Two penetration reels on back, lock-knife on retractor on right shoulder, small knife on left pull strap, spare mask in pocket. —

MSR Shears, DAN tag, light. —SBRDVR Two safety sausages, two air horns, an old CD to be used as a reflector. —

SCFRAN A shoulder carabiner to clip my mask to between dives; two other carabiners on the zipper pockets as nice big zipper pulls; a climbing-grade carabiner on the retractor to use as a tank banger. —

ZOTTTERS

Want to join the discussion?

Log on to www.scubadiving.com and click on "Community."

(LETTERS)

Weeki Wachee, Wink Wink

I HAVEN'T BEEN TO WEEKI WACHEE SPRINGS since I was a sixth-grader on a weeklong Florida vacation with my parents, 17 years ago. If I thought of it at all, I'm sure I assumed that the old roadside attraction had gone the way of all slightly rickety establishments in the Disneyfied Sunshine State. Thanks for your article ("Fountain of Youth," March '04) about Weeki Wachee and the difficult task of keeping the park open in changing times. It was



a pleasure reminiscing about a forgotten moment from my childhood and a beautiful mermaid who—I swear!—winked right at a 12-year-old boy on the back row of the underwater theater. **Louis Burroughs, Chillicothe, Ohio**

We'll Keep Thinking, So You Don't Have To

I AM CONTINUALLY IMPRESSED by the amount of resources your magazine devotes to equipment reviews, in terms of time, money and serious thought. Your recent review of weight-integrated BCs (March '04) is a case in point. With all the bells and whistles available on today's models, it never occurred to me that I should know whether the deflate valve on my BC can exhaust air faster than the inflator can add air to the bladder. Thanks for thinking of tests for such crucial performance characteristics, so I don't have to. As with all major pieces of gear, I wouldn't think about making a purchase without consulting the results of your ScubaLab tests first. Keep up the good work. —**Chris Thurman, White Plains, N.Y.**

XS Scuba Buys IDI

IN YOUR REVIEW of weight-integrated BCs, I saw a write-up on the International Divers Advantage. My local dive store tells me they're out of business. What gives? —**Adam Laramie, Atlanta, Ga.**

It's true. Shortly after the BC review went to press, International Divers, Inc. closed its doors. The bank holding IDI's loan foreclosed on the company's assets and on Feb. 10 (just as this issue went to press) sold them to XS Scuba, Inc. of Santa Ana, Calif. According to a press release, XS Scuba's plans involve "integrating the IDI product offering to become a full-line supplier to the dive industry." For further information contact XS Scuba at (866) 977-2822 or visit their website at www.XSscuba.com.

(HOW TO REACH US)

We want to know what's on your mind. Here are three easy ways to tell us:

E-MAIL: edit@scubadiving.com

FAX: (912) 351-0735

MAIL: Editor, Rodale's Scuba Diving, 6600 Abercorn St., Suite 208, Savannah, GA 31405

(ONLINE)

Show Us Your Photos

If the Photo Quest feature in this issue (see p. 58) inspires you to take a camera along on your next dive, don't forget to submit your best shots for ScubaDiving.com's Photographer of the Week. Each week, we feature the work of one underwater photographer. Sometimes it's a professional, sometimes it's a divemaster, but usually it's a diver like you who has amassed a collection of great images. Go to ScubaDiving.com and click on "Photography" to check out our archived galleries and find inspiration for your underwater photo session.

LIGHT UP THE SEA WITH TWO NEW DIVE LIGHT SETS BY *Princeton Tec*®

ADVENTURE PACK



IMPACT® XL
HIGH OUTPUT
L.E.D. DIVE LIGHT



SHOCKWAVE II™
THE ULTIMATE
PRIMARY LIGHT

Perfect for those who only want the best. Includes (3) lights and (2) pieces of Gadget Gear that allow you to extend your dive lights away from your body when in use and connect them to your BC when not required.



MINI RETRACTOR

SEA STAR™

PERSONAL LOCATOR LIGHT



COIL LANYARD

TRAVEL PACK



TEC 40™
ULTRA BRIGHT
HALOGEN LIGHT



MINIWAVE II™
COMPACT
PRIMARY LIGHT

Designed for those who want compact dive lights that travel easily. Includes (2) lights and (2) pieces of Gadget Gear that connect your dive lights to your BC.



MINI RETRACTOR



COIL LANYARD



www.princetonotec.com

PO Box 8057, Trenton NJ 08650 Phone: 609-298-9331 Fax: 609-298-9601

Art Engineered.

We've been turning out the world's most durable
and reliably engineered regulators for almost fifty years.

Now we're turning beads.

Visit us at www.SherwoodScuba.com



Maximus · Oasis · Blizzard · Magnum · Brut

NEW Sherwood Regulators Available Summer 2004



RODALE'S
SCUBA
DIVING

58

Want to get this close to manta rays and 15 other great underwater photo subjects? We'll tell you exactly where to go.

58 Photo Quest With the help of top underwater photographers, we search the world for the most photogenic creatures the oceans have to offer. From the whale sharks of Australia to the manta rays of Mexico's Socorro Islands to the manatees of Crystal River, our 20-page photo exclusive features 16 must-dive experiences.

INSTRUCTIONAL

95 Perfect Ascents A safe, open-water ascent with no line is tricky business. We'll show you how the pros keep it all under control. *By John Francis*

54 World's Best Shore Dives

Declare your freedom from diesel fumes, early morning boat departures and the stomach-churning effects of *mal de mer*. Walk-ins are always welcome at these 10 shore diving hot spots, as selected by more than 6,000 readers of *Scuba Diving*.

LESSONS FOR LIFE

78 River Blindness Lost in the channel of a black-water river and separated from your dive buddies as a massive barge comes barreling down right on top of you—could you survive? *By Michael Ange*

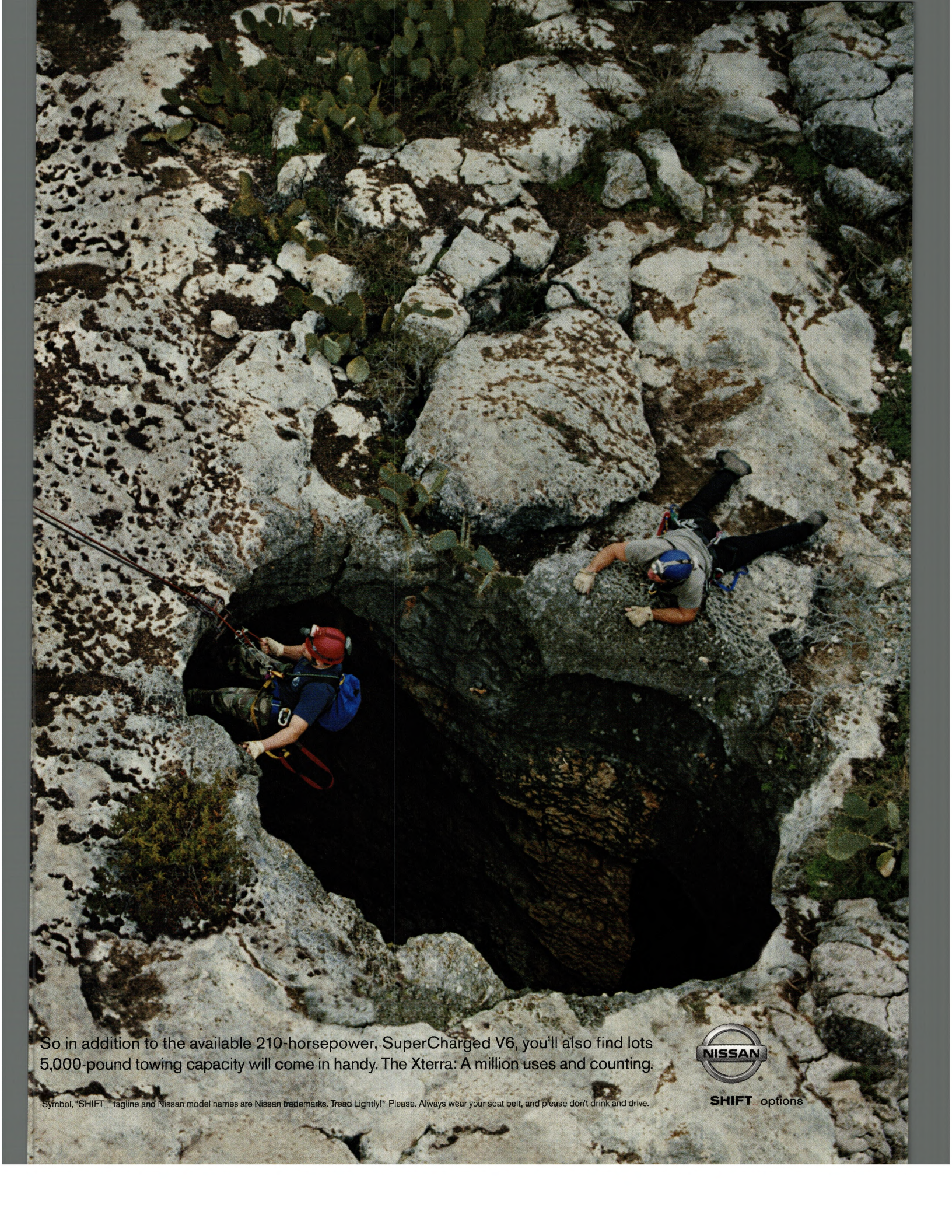
Cover photo by Mark Strickland.



ANCHOR.

THE NISSAN XTERRA. If necessity is the mother of invention, the Xterra is its dirt-covered poster boy of heavy-duty stuff at your disposal. After all, you never know when a ladder-box truck frame and maximum

Professional athlete in controlled conditions. Cargo and load capacity limited by weight and distribution. For more inspiration, visit NissanUSA.com or call 800-NISSAN3. Nissan, the Nissan Brand ©2003 Nissan North America, Inc.



So in addition to the available 210-horsepower, SuperCharged V6, you'll also find lots of 5,000-pound towing capacity will come in handy. The Xterra: A million uses and counting.

Symbol, "SHIFT_" tagline and Nissan model names are Nissan trademarks. Tread Lightly!® Please. Always wear your seat belt, and please don't drink and drive.



SHIFT_ options

RODALE'S SCUBA DIVING

THE GREAT DIVES

17 GOLDEN SWEEPERS at Cannibal Rock off Indonesia, mobs of black-striped salema at Kicker Rock in the Galapagos Islands and ethereal passages at The Chimney in the British Virgin Islands.

CURRENTS

24 CAN WHALES GET BENT?

British scientists search for a connection between high-volume sonar and apparent cases of decompression sickness in beaked whales. **PLUS:** Bonefishing in Belize, a coral-friendly license plate in Florida and grouper protection in the Cayman Islands and the Bahamas.

GEAR

85 DRY BAGS AND BOXES We found nine bags and boxes that keep your clothes dry while you get wet.

91 BAILOUT BOTTLES In an out-of-air emergency, what would you give for a few more breaths?

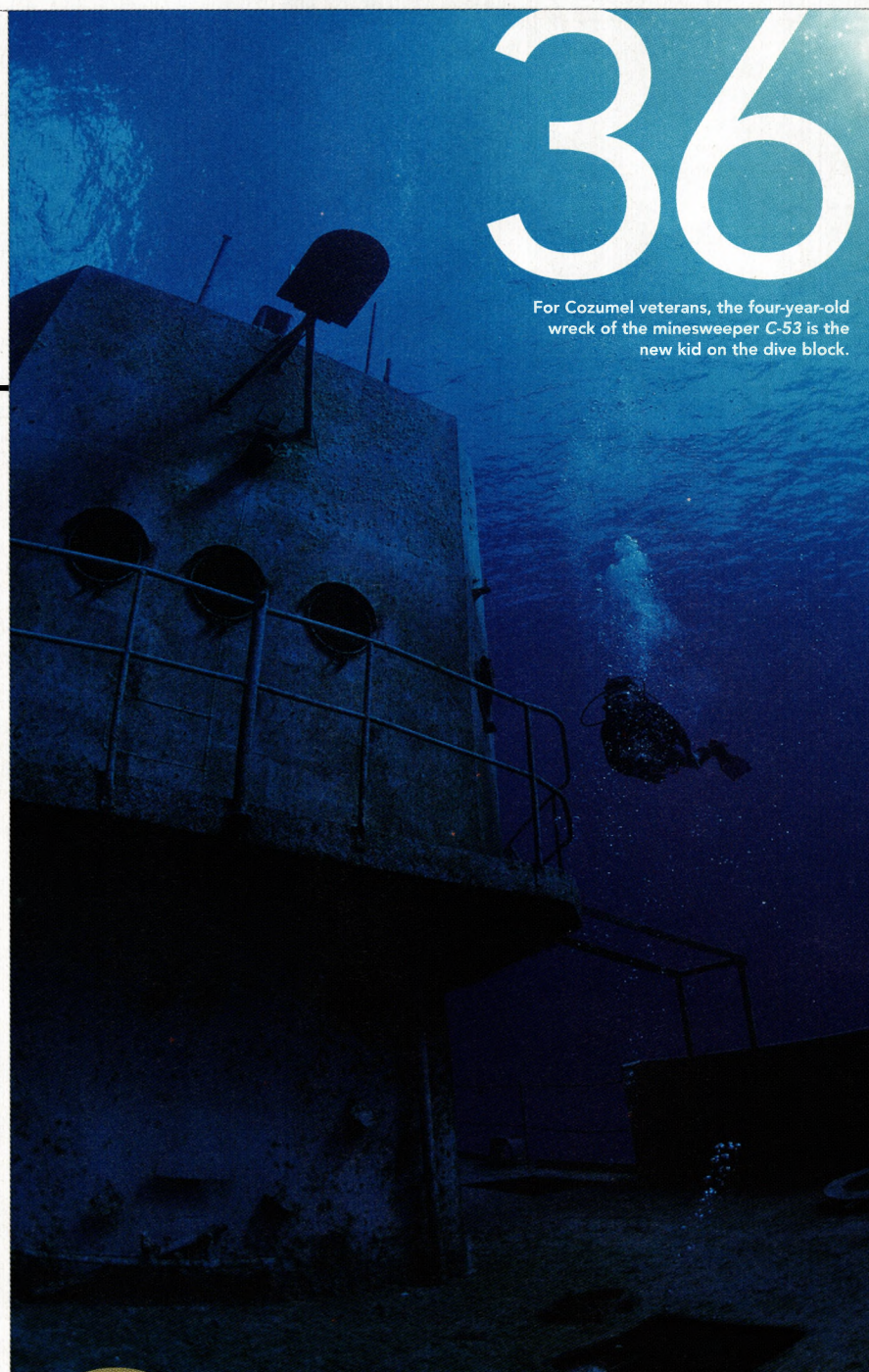
TRAINING

100 THE QUICK FIX Simple precautions and quick first aid can keep underwater cuts, scrapes, bites and stings from ruining your dive.

102 PENETRATING QUESTIONS Wreck diving poses special hazards to divers of all skill levels, but with proper training, techniques and equipment, there are few vessels you can't explore.

36

For Cozumel veterans, the four-year-old wreck of the minesweeper C-53 is the new kid on the dive block.

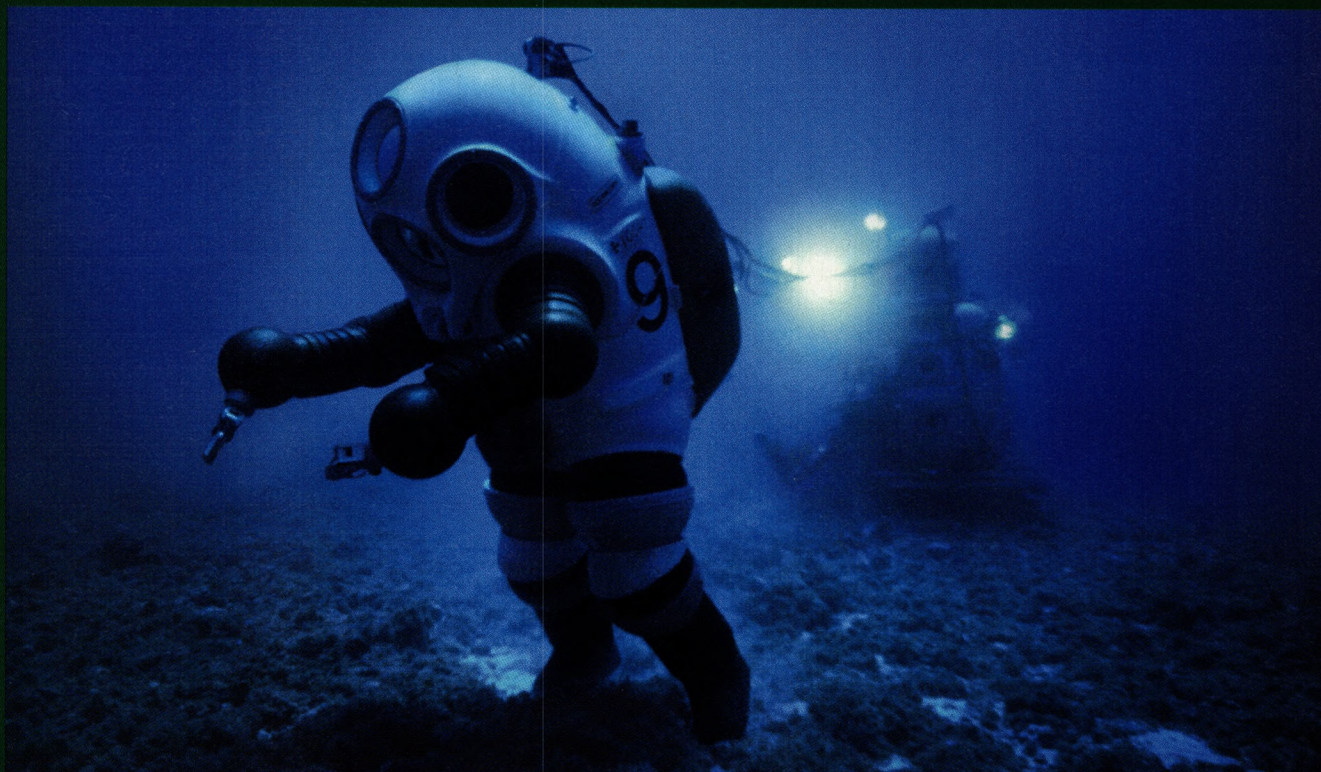


TRAVEL

36 DIVE COZUMEL LIKE A VETERAN See what makes this island irresistible to legions of travelers who would rather dive here than anywhere else in the world.

43 DRIVE & DIVE Every wreck in the Great Lakes has a story that's waiting to be told. Do your part by reliving the history of 10 popular recreational dives.

3 TALK 51 DIVE DEALS 104 IN DEPTH 112 LOOK



JOB DESCRIPTION:


SAVE THE PLANET.

Dr. Sylvia Earle's office covers two thirds of the Earth's surface. Her job title is a little more difficult to define. Marine biologist. Oceanographer. Botanist. Aquanaut. Explorer. And innovator. Above water, Dr. Earle has spent more than 40 years working to preserve the oceans. Beneath its surface, she's spent more than six thousand hours exploring, observing and cataloguing things we never imagined existed. At 1,250 feet, she set a world record for the deepest untethered solo ocean dive. To most people, an accomplishment in itself. To Sylvia, it was just one more thing to do in the endless pursuit of science.




ROLEX

OYSTER PERPETUAL LADY-DATEJUST • WWW.ROLEX.COM

FOR AN OFFICIAL ROLEX JEWELER CALL 1-800-367-6539. ROLEX  OYSTER PERPETUAL AND LADY-DATEJUST ARE TRADEMARKS.
NEW YORK

BREATHE DEEP.

With **OCEANIC** Nitrox-Compatible Regulators



ZETA



DELTA 3



ALPHA 7

See **ALL TEN**
Oceanic regulators and find out
how to get a **FREE REG BAG** at
www.OCEANICWORLDWIDE.com
today!

OCEANIC

RODALE'S SCUBA DIVING

Editor **BUCK BUTLER**

Art Director **IRIS A. STEIN**

EDITORIAL

Senior Editor **KEITH PHILLIPS**
Associate Editor **PAT WUEST**
Assistant Editor **GINA MARSHALL**
Database Technician **TRACI FISHER**

ART

Associate Art Director **JOY W. DRIGGERS**
Photography Director **STEPHEN FRINK**
Photo Assistant **ANNA BLISS**
Digital Imaging Specialist **TOM MATTEO**
Prep Specialists **MARLENE OZARK**
RUSS OWEN

ONLINE

Online Managing Editor **LAURA C.S. WALKER**
Online Designer **GERARD SULLIVAN**

SCUBALAB

ScubaLab Director **JOHN BRUMM**
Training Editor **JOHN FRANCIS**
ScubaLab Founder **JON HARDY**

CONTRIBUTORS

Technical Editor **MICHAEL ANGE**
Health Editor **SELENE YEAGER**
Contributing Editors **PAUL KVINTA**
LANCE LEONHARDT
Librarian **LYNN DONCHES**

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

GEORGIANNE BRADLEY, JAY IRELAND
JESSE CANCELMO, STEPHEN FRINK
DOUG PERRINE, WALT STEARNS
NORBERT WU

MAIN EDITORIAL OFFICE

6600 ABERCORN ST., SUITE 208
SAVANNAH, GA 31405
Tel: (912) 351-0855
Editorial Fax: (912) 351-0735
E-mail: EDIT@SCUBADIVING.COM
Web: WWW.SCUBADIVING.COM

RODALE SPORTS & FITNESS GROUP

Vice President, Circulation **JOYCE SHIRER**
Editorial Director **JAY HEINRICH**
Business Manager **RAY JOBST**
Executive Editor, Books **JEREMY KATZ**
Online Senior Director **CAREN SINCLAIR-KAY**
Group Research Director **JOHN D. BYRNE**

CUSTOMER SERVICE

If you have a problem with or question about your subscription, please
call our subscriber service department toll-free at
(800) 666-0016; (610) 967-8535
or go to our web site (subscription questions only):
[HTTPS://COMMERCE.CDSFULFILLMENT.COM/SCB/CUSTSERV.CGI](https://commerce.cdsfulfillment.com/SCB/CUSTSERV.CGI)

FREELANCERS

Please send unsolicited manuscripts and photographs to:
6600 ABERCORN ST., SUITE 208
SAVANNAH, GA 31405
E-mail: EDIT@SCUBADIVING.COM

READER PREFERENCE SERVICE

We occasionally make our subscriber names available to companies
whose products or services should be of interest to you. If you prefer
not to be included, you may request that your name be removed from
promotion lists. Contact the customer service department listed above.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Publisher **DANE B. FARNUM**

Advertising Director **DEBBIE EDWARDS**
Promotions Manager **SUSAN W. SMITH**
Production Director **KELLY MCDONALD**
Classified Advertising Manager **RHONDA MESSEX**
Advertising Design Manager **NANCY S. MILLER**
Contributing Editor, Advertising **W. LYNN SELDON, JR.**
Advertising Prep Manager **JUDI DAVENPORT**
Research Director **TARYN C. JORY**
Advertising Business Manager **SUSAN G. SNYDER**

CIRCULATION

Group Consumer Marketing Director **VERN WALTHER**
Associate Consumer Marketing Manager **ROB MILLER**
Assistant Circulation Planning Manager **MELISSA HERTZKE**
Single Copy and Direct Marketing Manager **SCOTT GIVEN**
Online Circulation Manager **NIKKI OAKLEY**
Associate Consumer Marketing Manager **KIMBERLY SAYLOR**

SALES OFFICES

Director, Direct Sales **PHIL TRINKLE**

SAVANNAH, GA

Tel: (912) 351-0855

Advertising Fax: (912) 351-0890

E-mail: sales@scubadiving.com

Publisher **DANE B. FARNUM**

dfarnum@scubadiving.com

Territory Manager **STEVEN "IKE" EISENBERG**
(912) 351-6224 seisenberg@scubadiving.com
Territory Manager **NICK LUCEY**
(912) 353-5245 nlucey@scubadiving.com

CALIFORNIA

Advertising Director **DEBBIE EDWARDS**
(858) 551-0430 FAX: (858) 551-0615
dedwards@scubadiving.com
Territory Manager **ANDREW WIENS**
(323) 255-2997 FAX: (323) 255-4194
awiens@scubadiving.com
Sports Group Rep **LISA LOVELY**
(415) 439-4603; Lisa.Lovely@rodale.com
Sales Assistant **CECELIA MAGNANI**

NEW YORK

Territory Manager **TRAVIS GAINSLY**
tgainsley@scubadiving.com

DETROIT

Advertising Manager **TOM CHISHOLM**
Sales Representative **KATHY THORPE**
(248) 637-1353 FAX: (248) 637-1352
Sales Assistant **TONI TOTH**
(248) 637-6668 FAX: (248) 637-6669

RETAILERS

To carry this title in your store, call the Direct
Sales Dept., (800) 845-8050



(610) 967-5171 • WWW.RODALE.COM



Printed on Recycled Paper
10% Post-Consumer Waste.



The
Audit
Bureau

Rodale's Scuba Diving Volume 13, Number 3, Issue 115



Rainbow Reef Dive and IDC Center
2 locations! Key Largo & Islamorada
Dive/Stay Packages - Small Boats
800-457-4354 rainbowreef.us



Amy Slate's Amoray Dive Resort/Key Largo
26' - 6 pass. & 45' scuba/snorkel catamarans steps
from your room on the bay. Spiegel Grove dives, Inst.
800-4-AMORAY or 800-426-6729 amoray.com



Florida Keys Dive Center "Since 1983"
Warm Water, Colorful Fish, Living Coral
PADI-5-Star Resort: Dive/Lodge pkgs. from \$89/p.p.
800-433-8946 floridakeysdivctr.com



Kelly's on the Bay/Aqua Nut Divers
Two 42' Custom Dive Boats on Property
PADI Gold Palm Resort, Ecotours
800-226-0415 aqua-nuts.com

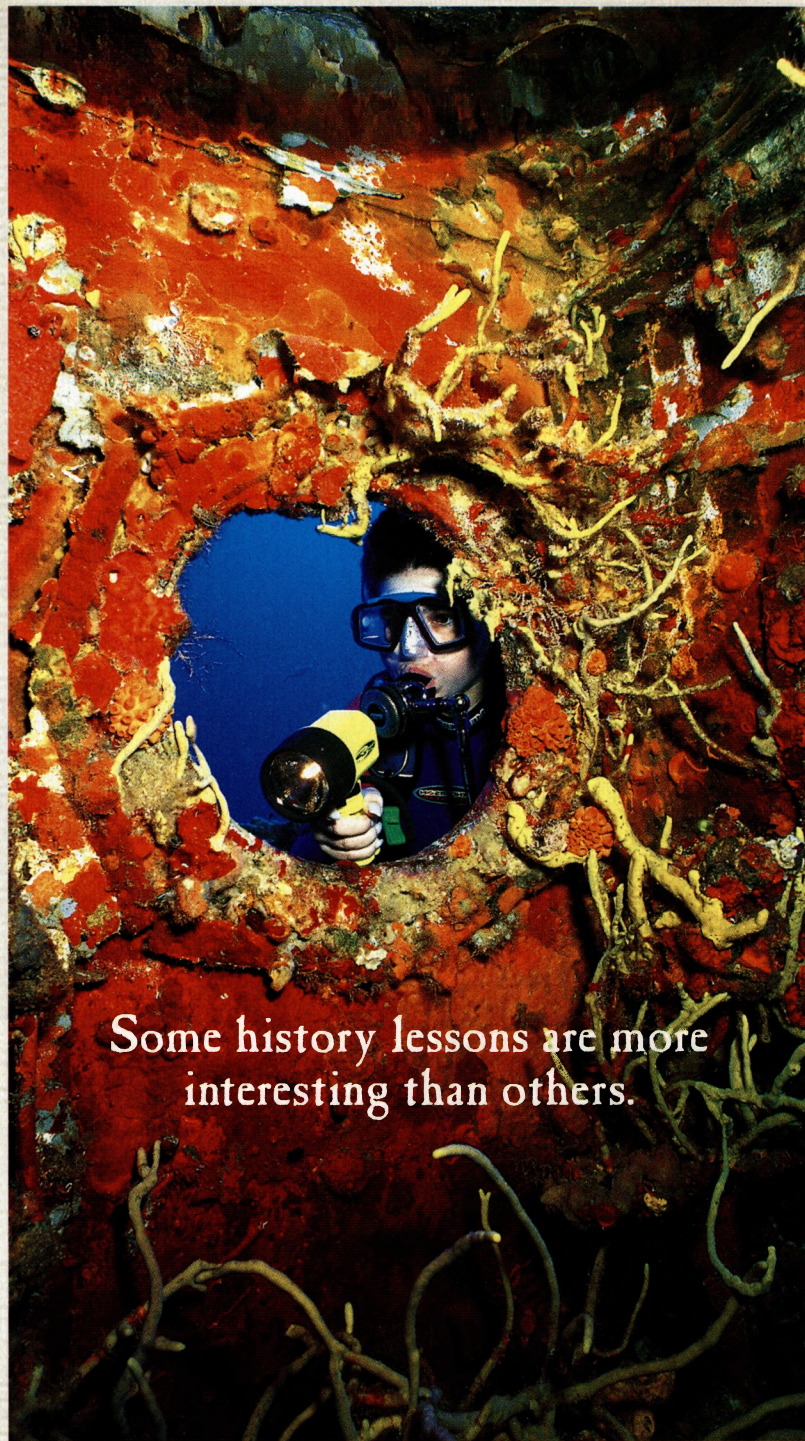


Dive Key West, INC.
"Our 32nd year!!" Full service dive center.
Great deals on lodging & diving packages.
800-426-0707 divekeywest.com



IT'S A DIVE - Marriott Key Largo
PADI 5☆ Gold Palm Resort & Instructor School
A+ Overall Reader Rating - October 2003
800-809-9881 itsadive.com

fla-keys.com/rodales



Some history lessons are more
interesting than others.

From the HMS Looe, which ran aground in 1744, to the recently-sunk Spiegel Grove, now the largest artificial reef in the world, The Florida Keys has a rich history to explore underwater. Problem is, deciding where to start could make you a wreck.

THE FLORIDA KEYS & KEY WEST
MONROE COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Come as you are®



SEE MORE BLUE. SAVE MORE GREEN.

Dive package rates are per person and are based on double occupancy and include air transportation, hotel accommodations, diving (w/ tanks & weights), room taxes, and airport transfers unless noted.

Cozumel

Hotel Cozumel & Resort/Dive Paradise

All inclusive & 5 days diving, 14 tanks (formerly Brisas Cozumel).

Valid April 1 - December 23, 2004

8 days/ 7 nights from:

\$1262

Reef Club Beach Resort/Sand Dollar Sports

All inclusive & 5 days, 2-tank boat diving.

Valid April 17 - June 25, 2004

\$1226

Plaza Las Glorias

Includes 5 days, 14 tanks.

Valid April 16 - June 10, 2004 & August 20 - December 23, 2004

\$1163

Puerto Rico[†]

Park Plaza Normandie/Caribe Aquatic Adventures

3 days, 1 tank shore dives, El Yunque Rainforest sightseeing tour, Cont. bkfst daily.

Valid April 15 - September 30, 2004

8 days/ 7 nights from:

\$1012

Parador Perichi's

Includes 4 days, 2-tank boat dives. Cabo Rojo & Mayaguez Reef, 1 Desecheo Island 2-tank boat dives.

Valid January 1 - December 21, 2004

\$949

Barbados*

Sand Acres Beach Club & Hotel

Includes 5 days, 2-tank boat dives.

Valid April 17 - December 20, 2004

8 days/ 7 nights from:

\$1511

Palau*

Palau Pacific Resort

Includes 8 days at the Palau Pacific Resort, 5 days of diving including lunch.

Valid April 1 - 30, 2004

8 days/ 7 nights from:

\$2349

Truk Odyssey*

Rated World's Best Liveaboard 3 Years Running

Includes 8 days aboard the Odyssey with 5 dives per day including nitrox, all meals and drinks including alcoholic, large cabins w/choice of king bed, a Truk dive permit and port charges.

Valid June 12 - 20, 2004

9 days/ 8 nights from:

\$3599

For reservations call 1-800-634-5555

covacations.com

Continental Airlines
Vacations®

**Work Hard.
Fly Right.®**



RODALE

LIVE YOUR WHOLE LIFE™

J.I. Rodale

Founder,
1942-1971

Robert Rodale

Chairman of the Board
& CEO, 1971-1990

Ardath Rodale

Chairman of
the Board

Maria Rodale

Vice Chairman
of the Board

Steven Pleshette Murphy

President &
Chief Executive Officer



Thomas F.X. Beusse

President, Men's Health & Sports Group

Steven Kalin

EVP, Chief Operating Officer

Benjamin Roter

SVP, Executive Advisor

Sara Levinson

President, Women's Group

Thomas Harbeck

SVP, Chief Marketing Officer

Marc Jaffe

SVP, Managing Director Books & Licensing

Randolph Charles

SVP, Customer Relationship Marketing

Lester Rackoff

VP, Chief Financial Officer

Camille Johnston

VP, Corporate Communications

Charles DeLana

VP, Corporate Sales and Marketing

Richard Alleger

VP, Single-Copy Sales

We inspire and enable people
to improve their lives and
the world around them.

Rodale Inc. 33 E Minor St. **Emmaus, PA 18098**
610-967-5171 rodale.com

RATE RESTRICTIONS: Rates are per person, double occupancy, and may be restricted to specific flights, dates, days of travel and include air transportation, hotel accommodations, diving (w/tanks & weights). Rates are based on travel from Houston Bush Intercontinental Airport (*Palau (midweek) and Truk (weekend) roundtrip airfare originates from Los Angeles. Yap includes airport meeting.) †Puerto Rico packages do not include transfers and air is based out of Newark into San Juan for Park Plaza Normandie and into Aguadilla for Parador Perichi's. ‡Barbados packages do not include transfers and air is based out of Newark. Rates and taxes are subject to change without notice. AVAILABILITY IS LIMITED. Rates do not include U.S. Arrival/Departure Taxes, International Airport Departure Tax, Immigration, Customs User Fee, Federal Inspection Fees and APHS Fees and/or Inspection Fees of up to \$153 (*Palau does not include: meals, drinks, personal expenses, or air taxes of approximately \$153. Truk does not include personal expenses or air taxes.). Individual country departure tax not exceeding \$25 (USD) per person requires direct payment by passenger. Blackout dates, holiday surcharges and other restrictions may apply. Gratuities not included. Tours operated by Caradonna Caribbean Tours (CST# 2063948-40) and Trip-N-Tour Pacific (CST# 2025043-40, OST# 8889209)

We've Got You Covered

**Divers Alert Network —
Become a Member Today!**

**New
Members!**

**Divers Alert Network
provides services and benefits that
no diver should be without.**

- Worldwide emergency evacuation and medical assistance
- The only 24-hour, worldwide dive emergency hotline staffed full-time by dive medical professionals, 365 days a year.
- Scientific research leading to recommendations for improving dive safety for all divers.
- Membership in the world's largest association of recreational divers.
- Eligibility for:
 - Dive Accident Insurance
 - Diving and Underwater Photo Equipment Insurance
 - Term Life Insurance
- Your Dive Safety Association for more than 20 years.

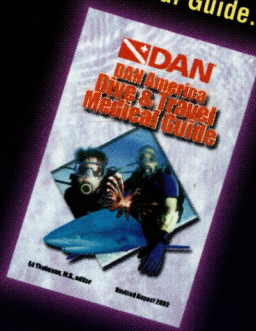
1-877-595-0625

Priority Code: 999RS5



www.DiversAlertNetwork.org

Divers Alert Network is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization associated with Duke University Health Systems.



HOT SKINS



Henderson Hot Skins and warm water... the perfect combination for a tropical vacation. Whether worn alone or under a wetsuit, Henderson Hot Skins are fashionable, comfortable and affordable.

Henderson offers you a wide range to choose from. Select from our Tropic Tops and Shorts or a Full Body Jumpsuit made from Lycra® or Polyolefin. Henderson also offers a complete line of Hot Skins in child and junior sizes which aid in reducing harmful UV exposure and from things that sting. If you're planning a tropic vacation or just want to be a lot more comfortable on your next underwater adventure...

Visit your local Henderson retailer for complete details on all the latest innovations from Henderson.

www.hendersonusa.com

Don't settle for less than...



301 Orange Street, Millville, NJ 08332, USA

856-825-4771
(FAX) 856-825-6378

SECRET SPOTS & MUST-DIVE CLASSICS

Dive THE GREAT S

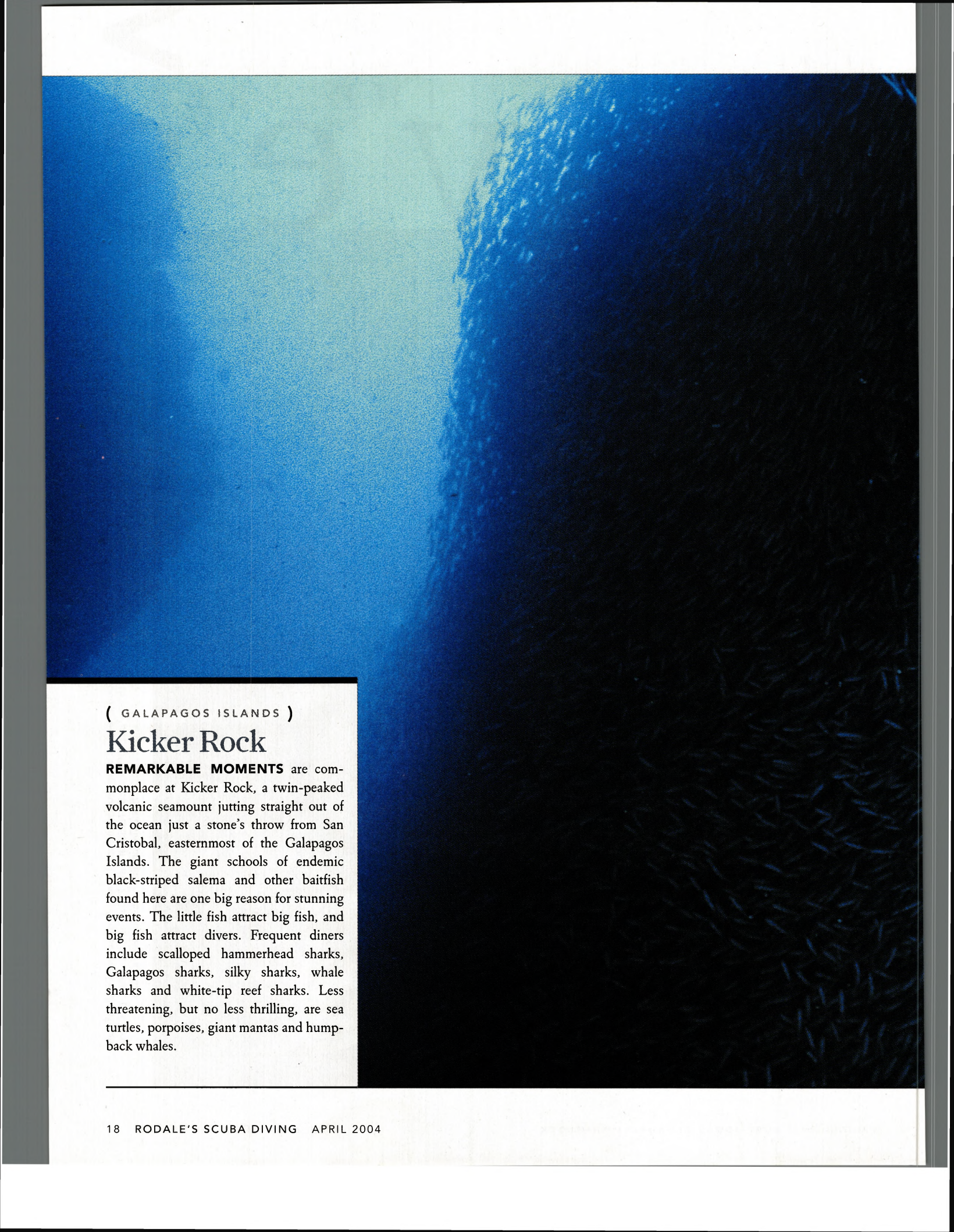
DIVE OF THE MONTH

CANNIBAL ROCK, INDONESIA. Golden sweepers wrap around the coral- and sponge-covered walls of Cannibal Rock like a slippery ribbon that refuses to stay put. Off Komodo National Park, 230 miles east of Bali, this luxuriously rich site features pygmy seahorses, sea apples, black frogfish and fire urchins harboring zebra crabs.

By day, Cannibal Rock may be sheathed in golden sweepers, but by night it crawls with exotic invertebrates such as Spanish dancer nudibranchs and bumblebee shrimp.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BURT JONES & MAURINE SHIMLOCK

APRIL 2004 SCUBADIVING.COM 17



(GALAPAGOS ISLANDS)

Kicker Rock

REMARKABLE MOMENTS are commonplace at Kicker Rock, a twin-peaked volcanic seamount jutting straight out of the ocean just a stone's throw from San Cristobal, easternmost of the Galapagos Islands. The giant schools of endemic black-striped salema and other baitfish found here are one big reason for stunning events. The little fish attract big fish, and big fish attract divers. Frequent diners include scalloped hammerhead sharks, Galapagos sharks, silky sharks, whale sharks and white-tip reef sharks. Less threatening, but no less thrilling, are sea turtles, porpoises, giant mantas and humpback whales.



A school of black-striped salema forms a temporary arch around a diver.



Because the maximum depth here is just 45 feet, you'll have plenty of bottom time to explore the canyons of The Chimney.

(BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS)

The Chimney

AMONG THE ISLETS off Virgin Gorda known as The Dogs, an underwater trail leads through a lavish canyon and an archway splattered with delicate orange cup corals. Huge boulders create a decorated tunnel that leads to an open sunlit chamber known as The Chimney. Bring a dive light to shine on the spotted drums, jawfish, queen angels, brittle stars, banded coral shrimp and spotted rock lobster. When you're finished exploring, continue to the end of the canyon where white coral grows around a crack in the walls wide enough to exit through. **SD**

GET THERE

> For more
information

on these Great Dives, turn to In
Depth, page 104, section 1.

Two Worlds...

One Camera



Digital!

SeaLife's new 2003 Digital Cameras offer **LAND & SEA** exposure modes for richer colors. *NEW* Quick Review function to preview your pictures. Easy One-Button Operation with Instant Delete. Rubber armored, rated to 200 feet. Expandable with all SeaLife® flashes and lenses.



SeaLife

ReefMaster®

DEDICATED TO DIVING

www.sealife-cameras.com

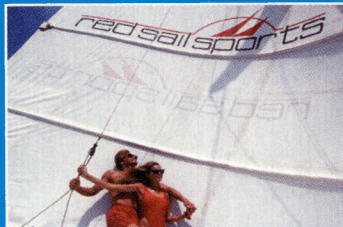




DIVETECH @ COBALT COAST RESORT

North Wall Diving, Training, Scooters, Restaurant, Full Meal Plan, Bar, Pool, Caribbean Sea, Custom Boats, Shore Diving, Kids Programs, Tek, Rebreathers, Owner-Operated – Friendly Service!

866.622.9626
divetech@candw.ky
www.divetech.com



RED SAIL SPORTS

Grand Cayman's premier dive operation - North, West and East. Unbelievable dive packages: Hyatt Regency (from \$485 /person, double) and Indies Suites (from \$349 /person, quad).

877.RED.SAIL
info@redsailcayman.com
www.redsailcayman.com



DON FOSTER'S DIVE CAYMAN, LTD.

On the shoreline just south of George Town, full menu of training programs in our new pool by the sea & daily scheduled boat dives. Super value packages with Comfort Suites on 7-Mile Beach.

800.83.DIVER
dfd@candw.ky
www.donfosters.com

300 dive sites. 25 operators. 1 life-altering experience.

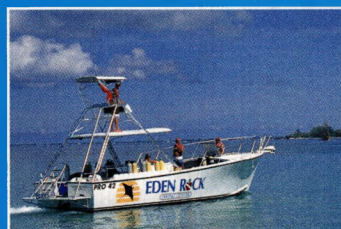
www.divecayman.ky



REEF DIVERS

No matter which Cayman Island you want to dive. Best boats, crew, equipment, and value. Bob Soto's Reef Divers/Grand Cayman; Reef Divers/Little Cayman and Cayman Brac.

888.716.7400
bestdiving@reefseas.com
www.reefseas.com



EDEN ROCK DIVING CENTER

Enjoy shore diving and snorkeling at the world famous Eden Rock and Devils Grotto reefs. Offering a full range of instruction, rental, and boat services.

345.949.7243
edenrock@candw.ky
www.edenrockdive.com

Grand Cayman • Cayman Brac • Little Cayman



DIVI TIARA BEACH RESORT

A casual, barefoot delight on quaint Cayman Brac – a favorite among divers worldwide. 71 guest rooms and Divi Dive Tiara, a PADI 5-Star dive operation on site.

1.800.367.3484
reserve@diviresorts.com
www.diviresorts.com



CAYMAN DIVING LODGE – EAST END

Avoid the crowds and come to the pristine East End. Experience its world famous walls and reefs from our intimate, all-inclusive, dedicated dive resort.

800.TLC.DIVE
info@divelodge.com
www.divelodge.com



OCEAN FRONTIERS

Less crowds...more vacation! Grand Cayman's best kept secret. Spectacular diving, award winning staff. Luxury East End accommodations at either The Reef Resort or Compass Point.

800.348.6096
info@oceanfrontiers.com
www.oceanfrontiers.com



CAYMAN ISLANDS

Close to home. Far from expected.



SEAVIEW HOTEL & DIVE RESORT

Spring Fling! Receive a free rental car, Breakfast, Night and Stingray City dive trip. From \$312 including accommodations, taxes, morning 2-tank boat dives and Unlimited Shore Diving.

866-945-0558
seadive@candw.ky
www.seaviewdivers.com



CAYMAN AIRWAYS

Warm, friendly, Caymanian hospitality and direct service from Chicago, Houston, Tampa, Ft. Lauderdale and Miami to Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

800.4.CAYMAN
www.caymanairways.com

To plan your springtime dive vacation, call us.

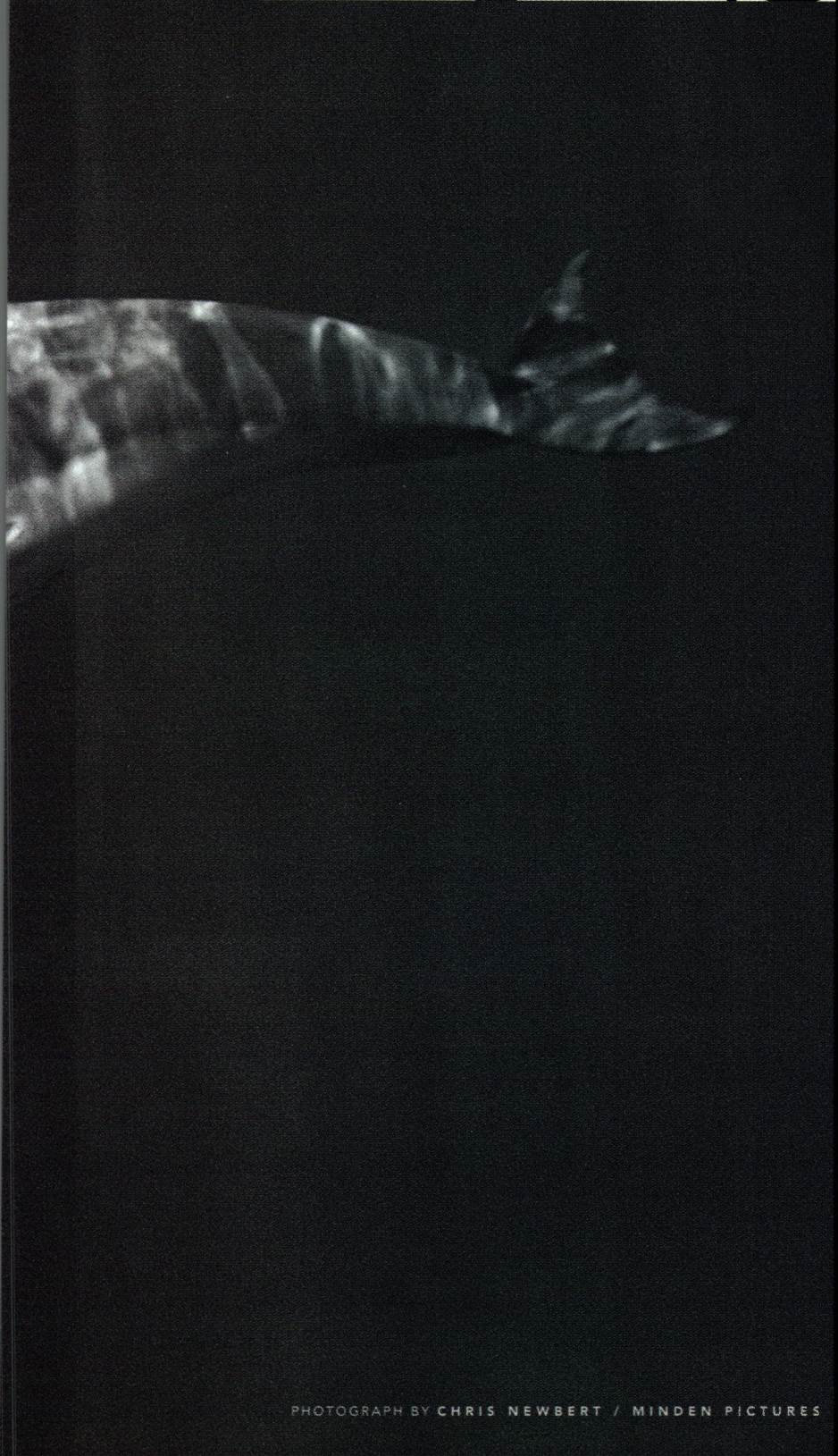
Curre



When 14 beaked whales died in the Canary Islands, scientists found tissue damage similar to that found in people with DCS. Navy sonar could be the culprit.



n t s



PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS NEWBERT / MINDEN PICTURES

(RESEARCH)

Can Whales Get Bent?

Navy sonar may be responsible for DCS-like symptoms.

When 14 beaked whales died near the site of an international naval exercise in the Atlantic's Canary Islands 20 months ago, scientists found a possible link between the whales' deaths and military sonar. Autopsies on 10 of the whales, which began coming ashore about four hours after the start of mid-frequency sonar activity, showed strange gas-bubble lesions in the animals' vital organs.

The tissue damage was similar to that caused by bubble formation seen in humans with decompression sickness (DCS). Deep-diving cetaceans accumulate large amounts of dissolved nitrogen during dives, but these mammals are thought to use physiological and behavioral adaptations to prevent the formation of gas bubbles.

But startled whales, disoriented by high-volume sonar, may surface too rapidly, causing a rush of gas bubbles through their tissues and DCS-like effects. Another theory is that sonar pressure waves on a whale's body could cause deadly nitrogen bubbles to form. Both explanations remain unproven, and it is not known at what distances the sonar may be harmful.

"Bubble formation in cetaceans as a result of sound exposure by any mechanism needs to be confirmed," says Paul Jepson of the Zoology Society of London, who led the team of international scientists that reported their findings on the beaked whales in the journal *Nature*. "If it is confirmed, then it is safe to say that we do not currently know what level of received sound will be enough to induce these effects."

Recent legislation has relaxed restrictions on the use of submarine tracking sonar and other activities that could affect marine mammals. —LANCE LEONHARDT

(TOPSIDE)

BONE YARD

Between dives, flats fishing offers ankle-deep adventure.

Bonefish are tenacious fighters when hooked, leaping out of the water and resisting any attempt to land them. Fishing for them is strictly catch-and-release because, true to its name, this catch is too bony for eating. Guided excursions can be arranged through resorts at many dive destinations where bonefish converge on nearby sand flats, including southern Belize, the Bahamas, Honduras's Bay Islands, the Turks & Caicos, and Akumal, Mexico.



A pair of fishermen flycast for bonefish in the saltwater flats off southern Belize.

(QUOTE)

I wiggled my fingers in front of it,
and the thing just grabbed
ahold of my little finger.

It had a wicked crunch.
I took my glove off, and that's
when I saw my finger was gone.

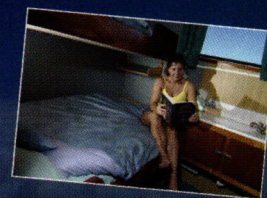
—RANDY JORDAN, OWNER OF JUPITER DIVE
CENTER, ON LOSING HIS PINKIE FINGER TO A
PORCUPINEFISH WHILE DIVING OFF JUPITER, FLA.

(JUST IN)

The Moor the Merrier Thanks to the crew of the Peter Hughes live-aboard *Wind Dancer*, dive boats can now hook on to moorings at several sites off Tobago. *Wind Dancer* crewmembers worked 10 days placing moorings in Mount Irvine Bay (near the wreck of the *Maverick*), Castara Bay, Man O' War Bay (Charlotteville) and Kings Bay. "It's something we do everywhere we go," says Peter Hughes. "It's an ongoing process. We add and repair buoys as needed." The *Wind Dancer* crew has plans to place additional moorings for Sisters Rock, Batteaux Bay (Speyside) and the St. Giles Islands.



Turks & Caicos Explorer



There's just a lot of **warmth**
and **friendliness** which is hard to explain unless
you have been on board....an **Explorer** boat.

Wytold Lebing, November 2003

Award winning Liveaboards delivering exceptional experiences:

Turks & Caicos Explorer

Providenciales
Turks & Caicos Islands

Nimrod Explorer

Great Barrier Reef & Coral Sea
Cairns - Cooktown
Queensland, Australia

Caribbean Explorer II

Saba - Statia - St. Kitts
Northeastern Caribbean



- 4-10 day expeditions for up to 18 guests per boat
- Private Bathrooms
- Nitrox available on our Caribbean boats
- Award winning service and cuisine



www.explorerventures.com



Top Ten
Liveaboard
Worldwide



Unique Dive Experiences. Exceptional Value.

rsdinfo@explorerventures.com

1-800-322-3577 Outside US/Canada call 1-903-887-8521

Fax 1-903-887-8526



Caribbean Explorer II



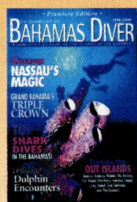
Nimrod Explorer

It's Lonely Out Here.

Our Divers Like it That Way.

Most Destinations are just one island with 30 or 40 dive operators,
all competing for the same reefs... **It's different out here.**

THE ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS: 100,000 Sq. Miles, 700 Islands, 2 Oceans,
Thousands of Dive Sites... All Only Minutes From Miami!



Bahamas Diver Magazine -
Our Complete Dive Guide

Interactive
DVD Dive
Guide

Visit Our Official Bahamas Diving Association Website and
Request our **FREE** Bahamas Dive Guide or
Interactive DVD Dive Guide.

**Need it Now? See Our Complete
On-Line Dive Guide!**

www.BahamasDiving.com

Dive The Islands of The Bahamas

Dive Into Adventure at www.BahamasDiving.com

U.S. Operated Customs and Immigration Preclearance Services—Plus Non-Stop, Direct Flights From Major Cities!

Visit These Bahamas Diving Association Operators on Our Website www.bahamasdiving.com:

ABACO

Abaco Dive Adventures 242-367-2963
Brendal's Dive Center International 800-780-9941
Dive Abaco Ltd. 800-247-5338
Dive Guano 242-365-5178
Fraggies Out Island Adventures Ltd. 242-366-0431
Treasure Divers 800-327-1584
Walkers Cay Undersea Adventures 800-327-8150

ANDROS

Andros Undersea Adventures 800-462-4100
Seascope Inn 242-369-0342
Small Hope Bay Lodge 800-232-6961

BIMINI

Bill & Newell Keefe's Bimini Undersea 800-348-4644
Scuba Bimini 800-848-4073

CAT ISLAND

Greenwood Dive & Beach Resort 242-342-3053
Hawks Nest Dive Center 242-342-7050

ELEUTHERA/HARBOR ISLAND

Ocean Fox Diving 242-333-2323
Valentines Dive Center 242-333-2080

EXUMA

Exuma Scuba Adventures 242-336-2893

LONG ISLAND

Stella Maris Inn 800-426-0466
Cape Santa Maria Beach Resort 800-663-7090

GRAND BAHAMA/FREEPORT

Grand Bahama Scuba 242-373-6775
Sunn Odyssey Divers 242-373-4014
The Underwater Explorer's Society 800-992-DIVE
Xanadu Undersea Adventures 800-327-8150

SAN SALVADOR

Riding Rock Resort 800-272-1492

NEW PROVIDENCE/NASSAU

Bahama Divers Ltd. 800-398-DIVE
Dive Dive Dive 800-368-3483
Land Shark Divers 800-327-8150
Nassau Scuba Centre 800-327-4100
Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas 800-87-SHARK

DIVE LIVEBOARDS

Aqua Cat Cruises 888-327-9600
Blackbeard's Cruises 800-327-9600
Bottom Time Adventures 800-234-8464
Cat Ppalu Cruises 800-327-9600
Juliet Sailing and Diving 866-5-JULIET
Nekton Diving Cruises 800-899-6753
Ocean Explorer, Inc. 800-338-9383
Sea Dragon 954-522-0161
Sea Fever Diving Cruises 800-443-3837



NEKTON DIVING CRUISES

Discover the diversity of the Bahamas aboard the award-winning *Nekton Pilot* or *Nekton Rorqual*. Experience beautiful reefs, exciting wrecks, mysterious blue holes, shark dives and snorkeling with wild spotted dolphins. Seven itineraries to choose from - Northwestern Bahamas, Cay Sal Bank, Cay Lobos, Belize, Great Exuma, and Mona Island. Some departures from Ft. Lauderdale.

800-899-6753 • 800-UW WORLD

www.nektoncruises.com



LONG ISLAND BAHAMAS



Stella Maris Resort Club is the focal point of adventure diving that will take your breath away! Conception Island Wall, heart-pounding Shark Reef, and the World's Deepest Blue Hole! Topside adventure from biking to kayaking. You'll like the difference out here.

800-426-0466

info@stellamarisresort.com
www.stellamarisresort.com



Explore the diversity of the 140 mile Andros Barrier Reef, one of the most unexplored in the world. Great for all levels of divers with numerous courses offered and sites ranging from shallow reefs to deep walls and blue holes. 20 beach cottages, all inclusive rates. Just one hour from Florida, 15 minutes from Nassau. Diving since 1960 - No one knows this reef better.

800-223-6961 • 242-368-2013/4

SHBinfo@SmallHope.com
www.SmallHope.com



So Much More Than Sharks.... Walls, Reefs, Wrecks, Movie Sites, Scooters, Marine Life! 16 different wrecks to visit including our newest site "The Ray of Hope" a 200-foot freighter sitting on a sand bottom along the edge of the Tongue-of-the-Ocean wall. Complimentary transfers to and from all hotels in Nassau and Paradise Island. Where JRS Divers Dive FREE!

800-646-3333 • 954-524-5925

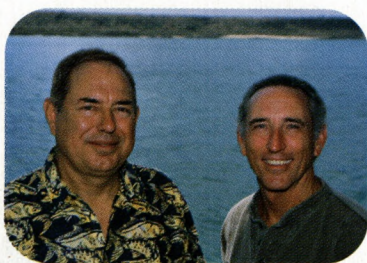
www.stuartcove.com/rsd

THE ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS

It Just Keeps Getting Better®

Bahamas Diving Association • P.O. Box 21707 • Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335-1707 • 1-800-866-DIVE • Intl. 305-442-7095 • info@bahamasdiving.com
Photo Credits: Stephen Frink/Waterhouse. © 2001 BDA/CLENE. DR10/01 • *U.S. Customs and Immigration Preclearance Services Available from Nassau & Freeport

Read Our On-Line Dive Guide at
www.bahamasdiving.com



(EDUCATION)

Name that Fish

Learn fish ID from the world's foremost experts.

When we can't identify a marine life species here at *Scuba Diving*, we turn to our dog-eared *Reef Identification* books, written by marine life ID experts Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach. Humann and DeLoach have made identifying marine species a piece of cake with their guides, but nothing beats their seminars and lectures for teaching the basics—and the joys—of marine life ID. Now you can do it while on vacation at any of three destinations known for the diversity of their fish populations. Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) offers three "Discovery" dive vacations led by Humann and DeLoach.

Paul Humann leads two of the trips: July 31 to Aug. 7, 2004, in Key Largo, Fla., and Nov. 6-13, 2004, in Nassau, Bahamas.

Ned DeLoach and Anna DeLoach will lead a fish behavior and coral spawning trip to Bonaire from Sept. 4-11, 2004, which coincides with the local mass coral spawn.

During the weeklong excursions, you'll study fish identification basics and survey methods, identification and behavior of marine invertebrates (shrimps, nudibranchs, sea stars, etc.), and environmental issues currently affecting coral reefs.

For details, call Dive Reservation Service at (888) 363-3345.

(REEF NEWS)

Buy a Tag, Save a Reef In Florida, specialty license plates trumpet motorists' support for more than 80 groups and causes—from the state's colleges and universities to manatees, dolphins and sea turtles to breast cancer research. Now state legislators have authorized a new "Protect Our Reefs" license plate.

By paying an extra \$25 for the tag, motorists fund research conducted on Florida's reefs. Best-selling author and *Outside* magazine contributor Randy Wayne White joined state and local officials in kicking off the Protect Our Reefs campaign. "I was certified in 1977, in Cuba, and I've dived on reefs all over the world. I've seen how reefs are dying," says White, a longtime Florida resident. "It's extremely important to do what we can to help save them."



(BUSINESS)

SCUBA CUM LAUDE

A diving degree can take your career to new depths.

A bachelor's degree in scuba may sound like a bad frat house joke, but at Miami's Barry University, it's a legitimate academic major. And if you enroll, says program facilitator Sharon Lee Kegeles, you'd better be prepared to hit the books as often as you hit the water.

"A lot of people come to the school thinking this is an easy program—but it's not," she says. The bachelor of science in sports management with a diving industry certification requires 140 semester hours of credit—more than most other degrees. As part of the curriculum, students earn NAUI or PADI instructor certification in addition to American

Red Cross lifeguard training and the DAN oxygen provider course. The program also requires students to earn a minor in business, take 25 credit hours of sports and exercise science, and complete a semester-long internship.

So what can you do with a degree in diving? Ask graduate Angel Rovira, who remembers being teased by his nondiving classmates, but nobody's laughing at him now. Rovira owns Parguera Divers, in Puerto Rico, where he leads more than 1,500 divers a year to the La Parguera wall. Rovira credits much of his success to what he learned at Barry. —MICHAEL JORDAN

For more information:

www.barry.edu/hpls/BS/diving/default.htm

(MARINE LIFE)

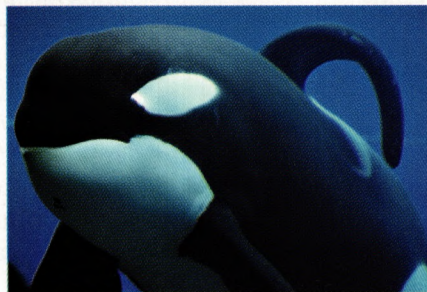
Free at Last

Keiko, the six-ton, 24-foot-long killer whale that starred in three *Free Willy* movies and captured the hearts of people around the world, died in Norwegian coastal waters on Dec. 12, 2003, after contracting acute pneumonia.

The project to return Keiko to the wild became widely publicized since it began in 1993. Captured as a two-year-old off Iceland in 1979, Keiko was eventually sold to a Mexico City amusement park. In 1992, Warner Bros. Studios moviemakers began filming *Free Willy*, starring Keiko, on location in Mexico City. The movie's success brought worldwide attention to the orca's plight. In 1995, the Free Willy Keiko Foundation was formed, and work began on a rehabilitation facility at the Oregon Coast Aquarium; Keiko was moved there in 1996. Two

years later, he was airlifted to Iceland, where his handlers prepared him for the wild.

"The project for Keiko was a success," says Mark Berman of the Free Willy Keiko Foundation. "He proved that these whales can be returned to some sort of freedom, and that it's better than living in a tank doing circus tricks."



BRETT PATTERSON/CORBIS

40 YEARS OF DIVING INNOVATIONS



AND NOW ONE MORE FOR 2004

ZipSeals™
by DUI

The exclusive DUI ZipSeals are the best thing to happen to a drysuit since the waterproof zipper! You'll never miss a dive due to a torn neck or wrist seal. Just "ZIP" on a new one and you're ready to go. **For a complete listing of our newest innovations, visit us online.**

SEE MORE AT WWW.DUI-ONLINE.COM

(CRIME)

Drinking Like a Fish

Three divers were turned into police after a news photo showed them plying a freshly caught pike with champagne at an outdoor New Year's Eve party near Opole, Poland.

One of the divers told a reporter that they had found the pike half-dead and wanted to "restore it to consciousness by treating it with champagne."

The ill-advised stunt could land the trio in jail, according to Poland's National Fishing Authority. There was no news on the fate of the soused pike, but we hope it gets its day in court.

(PROTECTION)

GROUPE GROUPIES

The Cayman Islands and the Bahamas move to protect the big fish.

Citing a sharp decline in the local grouper population, the Cayman Islands banned fishing in the species' spawning areas for eight years. The decision by the islands' Marine Conservation Board closes fisheries in six spawning areas known as grouper holes.

Officials in the Bahamas imposed a much shorter ban, from December 2003 until February 2004, but planned another closure from December 2004 until February 2005.

Nassau grouper, a favorite Caribbean entrée, matures slowly, and requires years to replenish a population decimated by overfishing.

Most islanders "agree that tighter restrictions are necessary to prevent us from losing our grouper permanently, as has happened in other areas of the Caribbean," says Don Foster, chairman of the Cayman Marine Conservation Board.

Australia's Great Barrier Reef

Have you ever had the Great Experience?

Have you ever wanted to dive the Great Barrier Reef? Stop procrastinating and discover the magic down under in the Land Down Under on Australia's best liveaboard.

- Unlimited Nitrox and Solo diving
- Relax in spacious comfort and privacy
- Excellent meals & onboard services
- Professional & experienced staff
- Dive Scuba Zoo with 30+ sharks and the spectacular *Yongala Wreck*



Phone: +61 7 4053 0500
Fax: +61 7 4031 5470



Win the Trip of a Lifetime! Check out our website for more details.

1.800.MIKE.BALL

www.mikeball.com

usa@mikeball.com



Look for this when you buy scuba gear.

Rodale's Scuba Diving salutes manufacturers that have earned Testers' Choice awards. The award is based on the only independent comparative testing that produces repeatable results. Below is a list of some of our advertisers who have products in distribution that earned the **Testers' Choice Distinction** in 2003/2004.



AKB234 Deluxe Mesh backpack
AKB514 Mesh Boat duffel
AKB612 Regulator backpack



3mm Gold Core Gripper gloves
Hyperstretch Zipperless boot
Microprene 1mm jumpsuit
Titanium Hyperstretch jumpsuit



Shockwave II
Tec 40 Pocket Light
Rage Mini-Light
Blast Mini-Light



Aurora BC
BCS jacket
CNSE drysuit
Duffel/backpack combo
TLSSE drysuit
Weight & Trim System



Super-8 RCD
PCa Lite



Avid BC
Freedom BC
Luna BC
Wisdom computer
Magnum mask



Gemini GS 070
alternate air source
Athena BC
Phantom BC
React Computer



Probe QLR BC
Datamax Pro
Plus 2 computer



Visualator mask
Xpert Zoom fins



Nexus Shell Drysuit

We encourage divers everywhere to look for the "Testers' Choice" icon when making equipment purchases. Ask your local dive shop for "Testers' Choice" products. Let them know you want the best.

L I F E

(FISH ID)

WHAT'S THIS?

This finger-sized, Indo-Pacific beauty is known for the fluorescent markings around its eyes, dramatic, deep-orange red near the tail and its flitting movements. These two characteristics—a fiery coloring and skittish swimming—are clues to its name. Shy around divers, it quickly bolts to the safety of its small burrow with a flick of its elongated dorsal fin. You'll find this fish between 30 and 90 feet, hovering with its head up and tail down, but our colorful mystery fish can disappear with incendiary speed.

t h e A N S W E R

FIRE DARTFISH OR RED FIRE GOBY, *Nemateleotris magnifica*

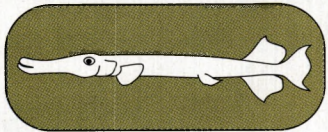
the DIFFERENCE

Get the skinny on two of the reef's lankiest fishes.

In the great orchestra of reef fishes, there are two species in the horn section:

the trumpetfish, *Aulostomus maculatus*; and the cornetfish, *Fistularia tabacaria*.

The trumpetfish got its name not only for its long, thin body, but also from its ability to flare its terminal mouth, which resem-



bles the business end of a trumpet. The cornetfish, an even longer and thinner fish, can reach a length of more than six feet, compared to

three feet for the largest trumpetfish. A sure way to distinguish between the two

look-alikes is by noting the long tail filament extending from the rear of the cornetfish's tapered body—an obvious bit of piscine anatomy



absent from the trumpetfish.

Although these species are limited to tropical western Atlantic waters, both have similar-appearing counterparts that

inhabit the vast Indo-Pacific.

While the trumpetfish is, far and away, the more common of the pair in the Caribbean, cornetfish greatly outnumber

See 21 Ways Divers Run Out Of Air
Reasons Why Sharing Air is NOT the Solution
Get the FREE Safe Diving Checklist

CALL FOR YOUR FREE BROCHURE OR LOG ON TO OUR WEBSITE NOW!

"I never thought
it would happen
to me..."

...but on the night
I ran out of air, it
nearly cost me
my life."

Larry Williamson,
President & Inventor
of SPARE AIR

**SPARE
AIR**

**BECAUSE SELF-RESCUE
IS THE ULTIMATE BUDDY**



**SUBMERSIBLE
SYSTEMS, INC.**

THERE WHEN YOU NEED IT

18072 Gothard Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648
(800) 648-3483 or (714) 842-6566

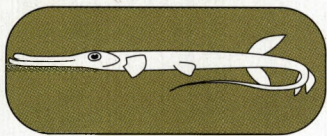
Available at your local dive shop or visit www.spareair.com



CE

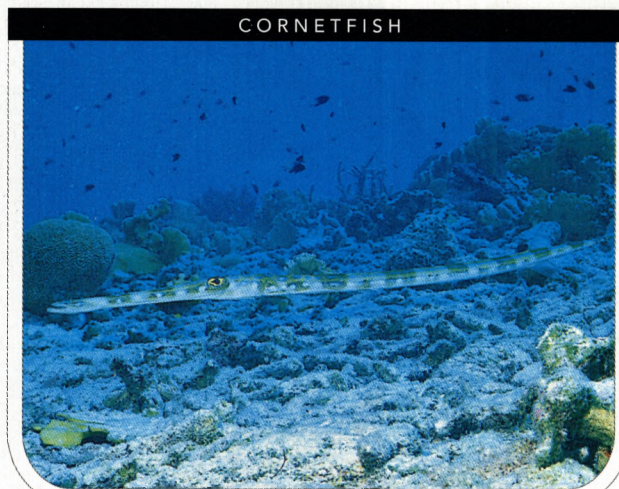
trumpetfish in the Pacific, where they are frequently sighted hovering in sizeable schools over shallow sand flats and seagrass beds.

Trumpetfish are voracious predators that stalk small fishes throughout the day. Stealth is their game and persistence is their strength. Their elongated bodies scarcely cast a shadow as the solitary predators cautiously weave their way through a maze of bottom structures. To better conceal their positions, they often assume a vertical posture among the upright branches of



waving gorgonians or align their broomstick bodies with mooring ropes.

While on the move, trumpetfish typically swim horizontally just above the bottom, but quickly employ a vertical striking stance when prey is in sight. They often remain poised straight up, with their mouths only inches from the bottom for extended periods, waiting for a holed-up fish to reappear. Downward strikes, generated from bowed bodies, are lightning-fast. Prey generally measures less than two inches, although a five-inch



CORNETFISH

squirrelfish was once found inside a two-foot specimen. Although known for their hunting prowess, a scientific study recorded only eight successful

trumpetfish strikes in 45 attempts during 19 hours of observed stalking. —PAUL HUMANN AND NED DELOACH

Bali

Explore the Komodo National Park and the waters in and around the Flores Sea.

Dive Easy

CUTTLEFISH
(*sepia officinalis*)

Photo by: Peter Lange

www.peterhughes.com

Bali
KOMODO DANCER
Tobago
Silver Bank
WIND DANCER
Papua New Guinea
STAR DANCER
Galapagos
SKY DANCER
Belize
SUN DANCER II



Photo © Michele Westmorland

Peter Hughes Diving
INC. SM

5723 NW 158th Street / Miami Lakes / Florida 33014
Local Phone: 305-669-9391 • Fax: 305-669-9475

1-800-9-DANCER

e-mail: dancer@peterhughes.com

©2003. Peter Hughes. All rights reserved.



**Work Hard,
Dive Easy.™**

Travel



DIVE GUIDE

Dive Cozumel Like a Veteran

All you need to know to be an instant expert. **BY KEITH PHILLIPS**

IT'S EASY TO SPOT the Cozumel veterans as I near the departure gate in Houston. I can tell from the dive-logo shirts, hats and the carry-on regulator bags that just about everybody on this direct hop to Mexico's largest



Easy-drift currents and prolific reefs keep Cozumel veterans coming back for more, year after year.

MORE COZUMEL

Go to *ScubaDiving.com* and select Cozumel from the *TripFinder* menu to get advice on dive operators, hotels and restaurants from the divers who've been there. We have trip reports and photo galleries from veterans and newbies alike.

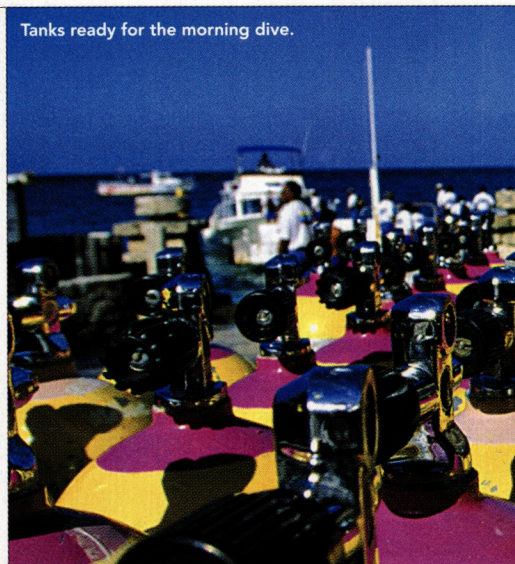
Caribbean island is a diver. But the Cozumel vets have an easy air about them. This two-hour flight is as familiar to them as their morning commute to the office. They stow their luggage with practiced ease, joke with the flight attendants and begin removing the top layer of clothes they won't need when the cabin door reopens to the warm Yucatan air. They tell old jokes and stories about the last trip, and when the captain comes on the intercom with the weather report from the island on this January morning—sunny and 72—one diver

can't help but exclaim, "Perfect!"

"Seventy-two on top means the water will be 80 degrees," another explains to his traveling companion, rubbing his hands together with obvious satisfaction. "It's going to be great!"

Cozumel veterans are divers who can't get enough of world-class drift diving, bargain resort packages and the festive atmosphere of this legendary island. They return year after year, often several times a year, forever in search of the ultimate experience. They trade dive shop recommendations and

Tanks ready for the morning dive.



Cozumel's coral pinnacles feature archways, tunnels and swim-throughs to explore.

resort critiques with an intensity others might reserve for hot stock tips. They're on a first-name, how's-the-family basis with the dive crew and they know exactly where on the backstreets of San Miguel to find the best hidden restaurants.

While nothing short of repeat visits to the island can make you a Cozumel vet, we can help you get started.

Let's start with the main reason to come here: effortless drift diving. A warm, two- to three-knot current sweeps the leeward west shore of the island, nourishing a healthy reef system that lines the drop-off of the 12-mile-wide Yucatan Channel. All you have to do is sit back and enjoy the ride on more than 40 recognized dive sites that fall into three distinct categories.

Vertical walls like **Maracaibo Deep** and **Santa Rosa Wall** range from 70 to 130-plus feet and offer heart-pounding blue-water excitement. Look for plate corals, monstrous sponges, deepwater gorgonians, and a variety of reef and pelagic fish species.

Coral pinnacles are some of the best-loved sites on the island, offering great dives for every skill level. Sites like **Palancar Horse-shoe**, **Columbia Pinnacles** and **Punta Sur** range in depth from 30 to 130-plus feet. Instead of a vertical drop-off, these sites are formed by a picket line of towering coral plateaus that fuse together in a maze of tunnels, archways, canyons and swim-throughs.

(continued on page 40)

STEVE SIMONSEN (LEFT); CHRIS CRUMLEY (TOP CENTER)



10 FAVORITE COZUMEL DIVES



Shallow coral gardens offer extended bottom times and lots of marine life, like this school of porkfish.

SANTA ROSA WALL

Depth: 60 to 130 feet. **Skill Level:** *Intermediate.* A jagged row of coral heads lines the wall's edge and is covered in deepwater gorgonians, sheet corals and a variety of sponges. To the northern end of the reef, there is a series of swim-throughs you can follow back to the shallows. When you're exploring the maze, expect to see grouper and coney hanging out on the reef while juvenile wrasses pick them clean of parasites.

CEDAR PASS

Depth: 35 to 60 feet. **Skill Level:** *Novice to intermediate.* Look for moray eels hidden in the coral crevices of this popular coral ridge. It's a fast drift over ground-level encrusting sponges and diminutive coral heads that grow bigger as you head north. The largest coral heads are perforated with swim-through tunnels, and if you duck into the lee you're sure to find big schools of grunts and snapper.

PALANCAR HORSESHOE

Depth: 30 to 130-plus feet. **Skill Level:** *Intermediate.*

Named for a U-shaped protrusion on the wall, this site features a maze of tunnels and swim-throughs through tall heads of brain, star and sheet corals. Tunnels lead to arches and grottoes with sunny skylights looking toward the surface and blue windows looking out to the channel. Expect schools of blue and brown chromis and bar jacks. Inside the tunnels, you'll pass alcoves filled with glassy sweepers.

PUNTA SUR

Depth: 80 to 130 feet. **Skill Level:** *Intermediate to advanced.* This site is home to the Devil's Throat, a near-vertical coral passageway that swallows divers at 80 feet and spits them out again in the channel at 120 feet. Watch for eagle rays and turtles cruising the deep.

MARACAIBO DEEP

Depth: 60 to 130 feet. **Skill Level:** *Advanced to expert.* Lots of deep blue water and the possibility of reversing current on the island's southernmost reef make it best suited to advanced divers. The wall starts

at 90 feet and is covered with black corals, orange elephant ear sponges and broad sheet corals, but the real thrill is the chance to see sharks, rays and loggerhead sea turtles out in open water.

MARACAIBO SHALLOWS

Depth: 70 to 90 feet. **Skill Level:** *Intermediate to advanced.* This site features a lush, rolling field of near-virgin reef that few divers ever visit. Tropicals swarm over a field of gorgonians that sway in the unpredictable and sometimes changing currents.

DALILA

Depth: 45 feet. **Skill Level:** *Novice.* Washed by a gentle current, this low-profile patch reef features lots of angelfish and colorful sponges. It's also a splendid place to find the splendid toadfish, so bring a light and peer beneath crevices and inside holes.

TORMENTOS REEF

Depth: 50 to 70 feet. **Skill Level:** *Intermediate.* The strong south-to-north current at Tor-

mentos makes this site the fastest drift diving on the island. You'll soar over large coral heads topped with whip corals and sea fans. Need a break from the water ride? Drop into the lee to surprise the schools of grunts and creole wrasse. Look for lobster in the crevices of the coral heads, too.

SANTA ROSA SHALLOWS

Depth: 40 to 60 feet. **Skill Level:** *Intermediate to advanced.* Want drama? Need excitement? Try drifting alongside the spectacular coral cliffs where the current has carved out caves, grottoes and tunnels.

BARRACUDA REEF

Depth: 70 to 110 feet. **Skill Level:** *Advanced.* Don't expect to be taken to this site unless you've demonstrated excellent air consumption and the skills to handle a deep current dive. The wall is a beautiful example of deep coral formations—vast plate corals, orange elephant ear sponges and deepwater gorgonians, but the real reason to dive here is the chance to see sharks, manta rays and sea turtles.

(continued from page 38)

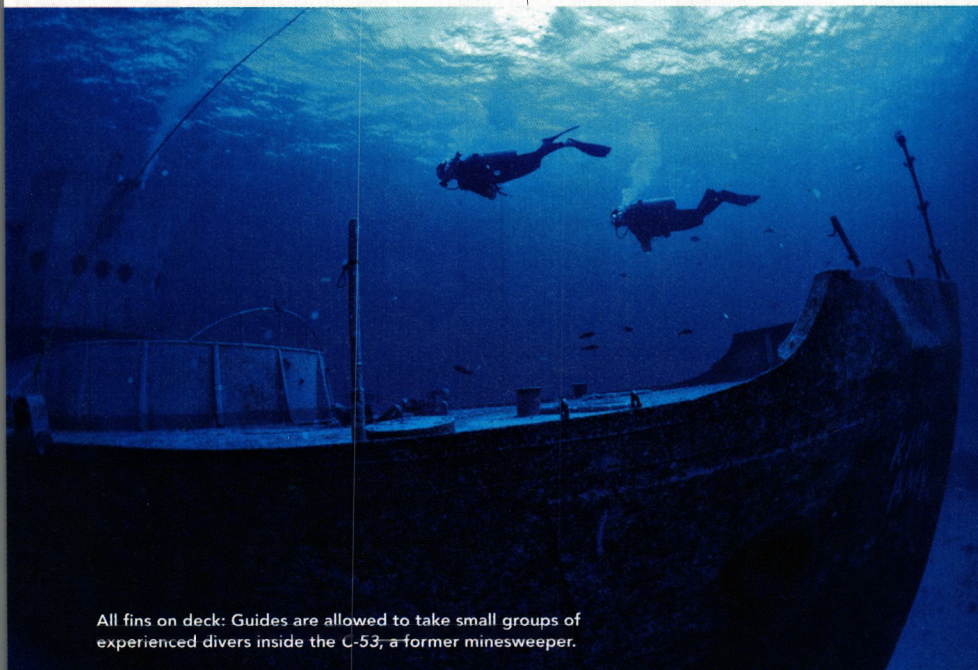
The nearshore coral gardens like **Cedar Pass** and **Santa Rosa Shallows** may not be the island's top attractions, but they are loaded with tropical fish and they are the only place in the world where you will find the splendid toadfish, a species found only in Cozumel. With depths ranging from 20 to 50 feet, they are excellent second dives.

A recent addition to the natural reefs is the **C-53**, or **Felipe Xicotencatl**, a former Mexican Navy minesweeper. Prepared as an artificial reef, the 184-foot vessel sits upright and intact on a white-sand bottom near Chankanaab Bay. The wreck has been opened so that experienced divers can explore the interior by following their guide and permanent lines through everything from the engine room to the officers' quar-

Get the Drift

IT'S THE CURRENT that makes Cozumel drift diving so addictive. But to truly enjoy this free ride, you'll need to find that sweet spot of neutral buoyancy. It's also important for safety—on deep wall dives where there is no hard bottom to stop your descent, you don't want to be kicking or leaning on the power inflator just to stay neutral. And at the end of every dive, you'll need to make a drifting safety stop without the assistance of an anchor line.

A lot of divers begin their week in Cozumel seriously overweighted. At the coldest, water temperatures hit 75 degrees, so you can go easy on the neoprene and therefore the weight. Don't be afraid to ask your divemaster for help in fine-tuning your buoy-



All fins on deck: Guides are allowed to take small groups of experienced divers inside the C-53, a former minesweeper.

ters. Inside the wreck you'll find schools of glassy sweepers and a few oversized grouper. Under the rules of the Cozumel marine park, guides are allowed to take no more than four divers into the wreck at a time, so you may need to sign up for this dive early in your stay.

ancy. They routinely help first-timers strip pounds off their belts.

Drift diving also requires you to follow certain rules for safety. For example, you have to follow the dive guide and stay with your group. To maintain control, your guide will set maximum depth and time limits. Because



the dive boat follows the group's bubble trail and the guide's surface marker, you need to stay within visual range of your divemaster, but there's no reason to bunch up on his fins. With consistent 100-foot visibility, you can space out and stay in visual contact.

Dive Drills

TWICE A DAY, an armada of dive boats large and small, old and new, literally race south to the reefs on two-tank excursions. Most operators follow a predictable pattern. Morning trips start with a wall dive to a max depth of 80 to 90 feet for 30 minutes—or until the first diver reaches 700 psi. After a one-hour surface interval, divers explore the edge of the drop-off. Afternoon trips dive the edge of the wall and shallow nearshore reefs.

The better shops usually try to group divers on different boats according to skill level (i.e., the beginner's boat, the advanced boat, the computer boat, etc.). Trips to advanced sites like **Punta Sur**, **Maracaibo Deep** and **Barracuda** are usually done only on request. If you feel up to diving an advanced site, ask early in your stay to give the operator time to check out your skills and find enough divers to make the trip.

BRADLEY IRELAND (LEFT & TOP); ETHAN GORDON (RIGHT)



Surface Intervals

EVEN IN THE TIME OF the ancient Mayans, who populated the entire Yucatan region from 300 to 900 A.D., Cozumel's main industry was tourism. Back then, the attraction was religion, not reefs. Mayan women made pilgrimages to the island to worship Ix Chel, the goddess of fertility. Ruins from the era are found all across the island, but the best have been excavated and reconstruct-

ed at San Gervasio. Topside, Cozumel offers:

➤ **BEACH CLUBS.** Rent a car and drive to the island's windward eastern shore where you can chill out with volleyball, *cerveza* and an afternoon siesta on the beach. Along the way, you can enjoy an awe-inspiring view of the island from the lighthouse at Punta Celerrain on the island's southern tip.

➤ **DOWNTOWN SAN MIGUEL.** You can find it all on the funky backstreets of the island's only town. The Museum of Cozumel is a quiet, cool place to spend a hot afternoon. While you're in town you can shop for jewelry, perfume and liquor, and visit more trinket shops than you can count.

A visit to Carlos 'n Charlie's bar, now located in the Punta Langosta,

is a Cozumel rite of passage. Yard-drinking contests, upside-down shooters and rock 'n' roll cranked up to 11. Party on—as long as you're not diving the next day.

There are a number of great restaurants to choose from. For fine dining in a casual atmosphere, try La Prima. For the best "local flavor," try La Chozza. Any cab can get you there, or look for the tall thatch roof.

And whatever you do, don't miss Sunday evenings in the town square. There's a fiesta every weekend with live music, dancing, food vendors and artists at work. **SD**

Downtown San Miguel at night.



GET THERE ➤ For more information on Cozumel, turn to In Depth, page 104, section 2.

BE AN INSTANT EXPERT

FIRST-TIMERS AND COZUMEL VETS alike will benefit from flipping through the pages of the new *Cozumel Dive Guide and Log Book*. Published by Underwater Editions and compiled with the help of divemasters from across the island, the book offers accurate descriptions of popular sites. More importantly, its foldout color maps of the dives show you, at a glance, the reef structure and the route most dive guides follow. The book is available at most Cozumel dive shops for \$26 or online at www.underwatereditions.com.

#1 *New York Times* Bestseller

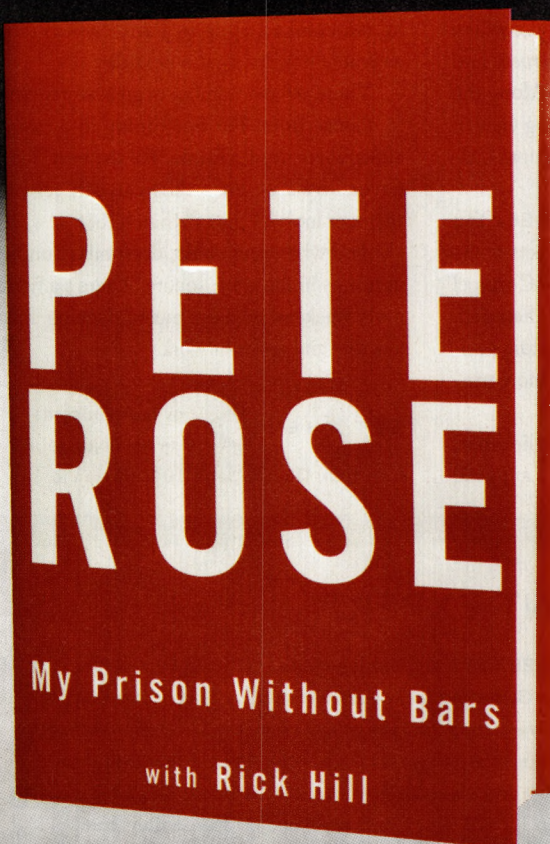
**“...a damn good book
and an enthralling read.” ***

“...rich with anecdotes, some of which are unintentionally funny and sad at the same time. You will know Pete Rose much better upon reading the book.”

—Tom Verducci
Sports Illustrated

“To read the thought processes behind what Charlie Hustle did in the batter’s box or out on the field is every bit as fascinating and engrossing as the emotional train wreck that was to become his life.”

—*Alysse Minkoff
ESPN.com



RODALE

LIVE YOUR WHOLE LIFE™

200247201

Available wherever books are sold or
(800) 914-9366
www.peterosebook.com



You don't have to go deep to dive into history. The 1883 wreck of the three-masted schooner *Wells Burt* lies in 45 feet of water off Chicago.

10 Great Wrecks of the Great Lakes

The diving on these wrecks is nearly as legendary as the ships themselves.

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY CRIS KOHL

THERE'S a story behind every ship that lies at the bottom of the five Great Lakes. These immense bodies of water—Ontario, Erie, Huron, Michigan and Superior—are spread across an area 690 miles long and 860 miles wide, and have claimed an estimated 6,000 vessels. Though the locations of three-quarters of these wrecks are unknown, many of them are no farther than a drive to a dock and a short boat ride away. Protected by law and frigid water, they are ice-water museums, the stuff of seafaring lore and some of the best-preserved wrecks in the world. Here are 10 Great Lakes wrecks that are ideal for recreational divers.

LAKE ONTARIO *Annie Falconer*

THE TWO-MASTED schooner *Annie Falconer* created quite a bit of excitement after its discovery in 1975 because it is upright, intact and in relatively shallow water, 78 feet. Built in 1867, *Annie Falconer* was a classic Great Lakes schooner. Carrying a cargo of soft coal, the 108-foot-long vessel foundered in a violent storm just off Point Traverse in November 1904.

Sitting on a hard sand and mud bottom and rising about 11 feet to a deck-level depth of 67 feet, the wreck features deadeyes, anchors, blocks, chains and the ship's wheel still upright and in place. The stern portion, which probably

broke off as the ship sank, is nearby, at an angle to the main hull. The coal cargo lies in open view at the ship's split, with broken dishes and numerous artifacts scattered on top. Limited penetration is possible in the forward hull for divers who are properly trained.

LAKE ONTARIO *Wolfe Islander II*

IN THE MID-1970s, I drove my old station wagon onto the *Wolfe Islander II* ferry and crossed the St. Lawrence River from Kingston, Ontario, to Wolfe Island, unaware then that someday I would be diving on this ship.

Built in 1946, the *Wolfe Islander II* served the eastern Lake Ontario region for over three decades. In 1985, after lying idle for several years, the 144-foot-long ferry became the first commercial ship scuttled in the Great Lakes for the express purpose of creating a dive site.

BONAIRE DIVE FESTIVAL

Remember, no fee & twice the fun!
Book your Bonaire Dive Festival
vacation now.

CAPTAIN DON'S HABITAT



\$583
diver/quad

www.habitatdiveresorts.com



1-800-327-6709
divefest@maduro.com
www.maduro.com

PLAZA RESORT BONAIRE



From **\$608**
diver/quad

Villa, Truck & Diving



1-800-766-6016
info@plazaresortbonaire.com
www.plazaresortbonaire.com

SAND DOLLAR CONDOMINIUM RESORT



\$593
diver/quad

www.sanddollarbonaire.com



SAND DOLLAR
Condominium Resort

1-800-288-4773
usreservations@sanddollarbonaire.com

BUDDY DIVE RESORT



\$589
pp/sex1

www.buddydive.com



1-866-60-BUDDY
1-866-462-8339
buddydive@travelmarketing.com

DRIVE & DIVE



Sitting upright three miles east of the city of Kingston in an all-weather stretch of water, the superstructure can be explored in 40 feet of water, while the impressive three-bladed propeller, still in place, can be found on the bottom at 85 feet. Divers can glide across the vessel's open deck area, complete with davits, bitts, dorades (large conical air vents), smokestack and railings galore. Divers trained in wreck penetration can explore the interior, including the engine room. All doors and hatches were removed before the ship was scuttled.



LAKE ERIE

Dean Richmond

THE WOODEN steamer *Dean Richmond* enjoyed fame early in its career: It was the largest package freighter on the Great Lakes at the time of its launch in 1864. It was the *Dean Richmond's* dramatic demise



Lake Ontario's *Wolfe Islander II* was cleaned for divers before being scuttled in 1985.

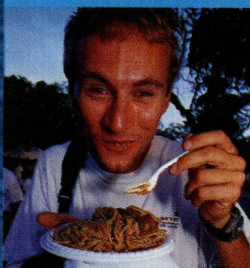
BONAIRE
DIVE FESTIVAL
June 5-19, 2004

More Fun More Diving No Fees!

Shore Diving
&
Boat Diving



Presentations
by
Photo Pros



Taste of
Bonaire
& Parties



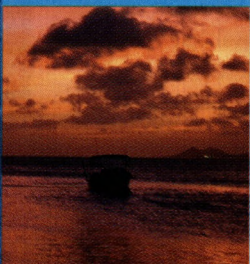
The Bonaire Dive Festival, scuba diving's premier event, will offer more fun and more diving in 2004. Come any-time during the two weeks to experience the world's easiest diving and join in exciting island-wide events, including diving, contests, demos... No matter whether you're a beginner diver or advanced, coming by yourself or with your family, the Bonaire Dive Festival is an adventure-packed vacation of a lifetime.

HOTELS OFFERING DIVE FESTIVAL PACKAGES

Scuba Challenge
& Fish ID
with Prizes



Meet
Philippe
Cousteau Jr.



Dive Fashion
Show &
Much More!



Belmar Apartments	866.655.0605 or 781.821.5650
Bonaire Lagoen Hill	+31 252 34 17 80
Buddy Dive Resort	866.GO.BUDDY or 781.821.5650
Captain Don's Habitat	800.327.6709
Diver's Paradise	+31 252 37 34 95
Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino	800.367.3484
Hamlet Bonaire	011.599.717.3988
Harbour Village Beach Club and	800.424.0004
Portofino Hotel and Yacht Club	800.424.0004
Plaza Resort Bonaire	800.766.6016 or 781.821.6016
Port Bonaire	800.766.6016 or 781.821.6016
Sand Dollar Condominium Resort	800.288.4773

Remember, no fee & twice the fun! Book your Bonaire Dive Festival vacation now.

1-800-BONAIRE

WWW.BONAIREDIVEFESTIVAL.COM



BONAIRE



SCUBA
DIVING



So much more than sharks

"For 25 years we have been exploring the reefs, wrecks and coral walls of Nassau. During this time we have discovered the best of what Nassau has to offer. So whether you're visiting us for the first time or returning for the 10th time, we always have something new and unique to amaze and thrill you."

It's All Here!

**Walls • Reefs • Wrecks • Sharks
Movie Sites • Out Island Seafaris
Multiple Dive Packages Available**



STUART COVE'S



800-646-3333

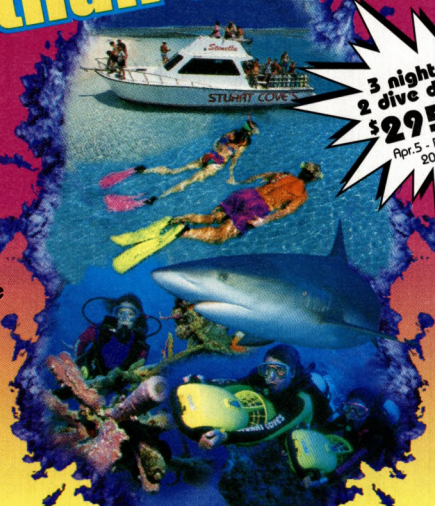
www.stuartcove.com/rsd

fax 954-524-5925 • 242-362-4171 on island
Nassau • Bahamas

Preferred Dive
Test Center



**3 nights,
2 dive days
\$295.00**
ppdo
Apr. 5 - Dec. 30
2003



COZUMEL

8 days, 7 nights • 5 days, 2 tank
boat & unlim. shore diving
• 3 meals daily
• R/T transfer. 4/1-8/31/04

\$916 pp
dbl occ

Scuba Club Cozumel

A small intimate dedicated divers resort located 1 mile south of downtown Cozumel. Offering quality and value with our room, meal and diving packages that make your vacation easy to plan. Offering an on-site 5 star international dive center to cater to all your diving needs, great boats and excellent beach diving. We have everything you need all in one convenient location!

8 days, 7 nights • 4 days, 3 tank
& 1 day, 2 tank diving
• All inclusive
• R/T transfer. 4/1-12/23/04

\$782 pp
dbl occ

Hotel Cozumel & Resort

Hotel Cozumel & Resort's (formerly Brisas Cozumel) all inclusive program offers spacious and beautiful accommodations, 3 restaurants & bars, karaoke, and Cozumel's largest swimming pool, located within walking distance to town and close to the coral reef barrier. The on site Beach Club is fully equipped with all the necessary features for divers and their scuba equipment. The Dive Operator is Dive Paradise a PADI GOLD PALM IDC Center.

8 days, 7 nights • 5 days,
2 tank boat diving
• All inclusive with 7th night FREE
• R/T transfer. 4/17-6/26/04

\$746 pp
dbl occ

Reef Club Beach Resort

Reef Club is the most exciting all inclusive hotel in Cozumel, surrounded by white beaches and turquoise waters. The perfect location for divers, only minutes by boat from our private pier to the best dive sites in Cozumel. Sand Dollar Sports, our on site full service dive shop dedicated to providing first class diving experiences, your best choice!

8 days, 7 nights • 5 days, 2 tank
boat & unlim. shore diving
• Bkfst. daily • FREE nights
• R/T transfer. 4/1-9/1/04

\$573 pp
dbl occ

El Cid La Ceiba

No Island in the Caribbean offers more than Cozumel, and no hotel in Cozumel offers more than El Cid La Ceiba. You'll find gracious hospitality, great dining and comfortable accommodations. Snorkel, play tennis, sip a margarita on the beach or just relax in our oceanside hot tub. Diving with Del Mar Aquatics a PADI Gold Palm 5 Star Center.



Caradonna Caribbean Tours Inc.
Customized Scuba Dive Travel

435 Douglas Ave., Ste. 2205, Altamonte Spgs., FL 32714 • 407/774-9000 • Fax 407/682-6000
See our website for more info on above: www.caradonna.com • E-mail: sales@caradonna.com

USA & Canada: 800/328-2288

and the subsequent long quest for its valuable cargo of zinc, however, that made the ship the stuff of legends. Disappearing with all 18 people on board in a violent autumn storm in eastern Lake Erie on Oct. 14, 1893, the location of the *Dean Richmond* remained unknown for 90 years.

The vessel lies upside down in 100 to 120 feet of water. One of the ship's impressive twin propellers is still in place, and is often the starting point for exploring the entire wreck. A portion of the expansive wooden hull, dynamited and damaged by commercial interests eager to reach the ship's cargo of zinc ingots, provides access to the engine room and other below-deck regions for divers trained in penetration diving.

LAKE ERIE

Merida

LIKE THE *Dean Richmond*, the 360-foot-long, steel steamer *Merida* was the largest vessel of its type on the Great Lakes when the ship was launched in 1893. The ship sank with all hands during the severe Black Friday storm of Oct. 20, 1916. Three other commercial ships went to the bottom of Lake Erie during that furious upheaval, but the *Merida* was the first to be located, explored by divers and identified.

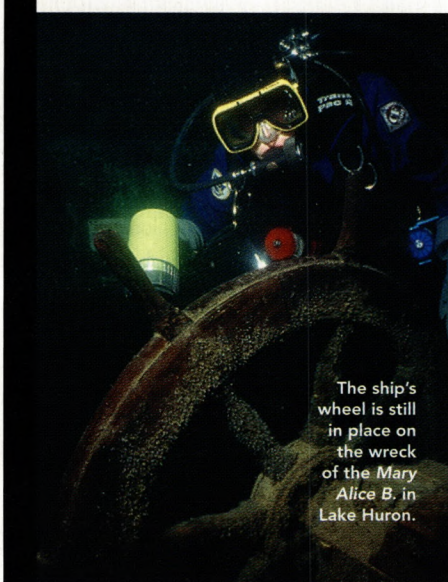
Always one of my favorite Lake Erie wrecks, *Merida* amazes me on every visit. Lying northeast of Cleveland, Ohio, in 83 feet of water and sometimes rising 18 feet off the soft mud bottom, the *Merida* sits upright and mostly intact. The ship's backbone probably snapped from the massive weight of its iron ore cargo, so its ends rise on tortured angles from the level lake bottom. The sharp-angled bow is

adorned with a huge hinged fluke anchor lying flat on the deck at the peak, as well as a capstan, a second anchor and chain still in place, stanchions, railing and many artifacts. A few brass portholes can be found at the lower levels of the bow. The mid-ship area consists of numerous cargo hatches, but because this part of the ship is deeply embedded in the lake bottom, they're often totally covered by mud and silt. Occasionally, a storm will scour out the lake bottom beneath the wreck's propeller, making it possible to swim underneath the wreck. Though the stern's engine room is penetrable, it is very silty, making proper training and experience absolutely necessary for exploration there.

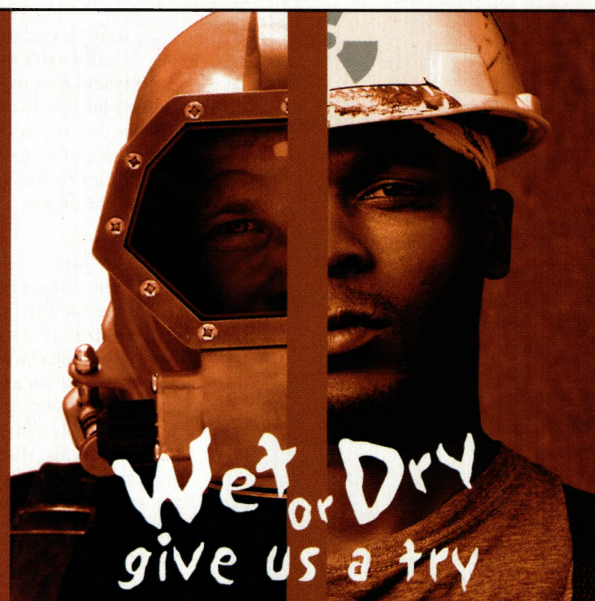
LAKE HURON

Mary Alice B.

THE WATERS OF Lake Huron rushed over this 44-year-old tugboat after it became waterlogged while under tow in the late summer of 1975. No lives were lost, but this small, 62-foot-long wreck wasn't located by divers until 1992. The *Mary Alice B.* was sitting upright in 98 feet of water and so intact that



The ship's wheel is still in place on the wreck of the *Mary Alice B.* in Lake Huron.



The Ocean Corporation is currently recruiting students for classes in Commercial Diving or Non Destructive Testing. Call 800-321-0298 for additional information, or see our web site www.oceancorp.com for details. Financial Aid available for those who qualify.



The Ocean Corporation

10840 Rockley Road

Houston, TX 77099

BONAIRE

8 days, 7 nights • 6 days, 1 tank
boat dive & unlimited shore diving
• bkfst. daily • Bonus item from Select List
• R/T transfers. 4/4-12/18/04

\$630 pp
dbl
occ

Captain Don's Habitat

"The original home of diving freedom" - it all started right here at Habitat with our Founder, Capt. Don Stewart. Our professional, friendly staff are here to assist everyone from the novice diver to the most advanced technical diver. Find out why our repeat guests say "when we come to Habitat...it's like coming home."

8 days, 7 nights • 6 days, 1 tank
boat dive & unlim. shore diving
• Cont. Bkfst. daily
• R/T transfers 1/1-12/15/04

\$690 pp
dbl
occ

Portofino Hotel & Yacht Club

Bonaire's newest resort, a boutique style harbourside property, offers 21 rooms stylishly decorated and every modern convenience for the diver, leisure traveler or for those seeking comfortable town houses for extended stays. Accommodations range from budget to simply luxury with something suitable for every visitor. Great Adventures Bonaire at Harbour Village is the PADI Resort dive facility.

8 days, 7 nights • 6 days, 3 tank
boat dive & unlim. shore diving
• bkfst. daily
• R/T transfers. 4/19-12/24/04

\$909 pp
dbl
occ

Divi Flamingo Beach

Two time winner of Bonaire's best "Property of the Year," Divi Flamingo is within walking distance to town. This world renowned resort offers oceanside dining, a barefoot casino, handicapped facilities, PADI 5-Star dive operation and excellent shore diving.

8 days, 7 nights • 6 days, 1 tank
boat dive & unlim. shore diving
• bkfst. daily • 7 day car rental
(excl. vehicle tax). 4/15-12/14/04

\$686 pp
quad
occ

Sand Dollar Condominium Resort

Spectacular oceanview studio, 1, 2 and 3-bedroom condominiums. A/C bedrooms, full-size kitchens, spacious living areas, cable TV, large private patios. Dive with Bonaire Dive & Adventure and shore dive on the #1 reef in the Caribbean. Instruction, eco-adventures and children's programs.

airJamaica 4 Weekly Champagne Flights

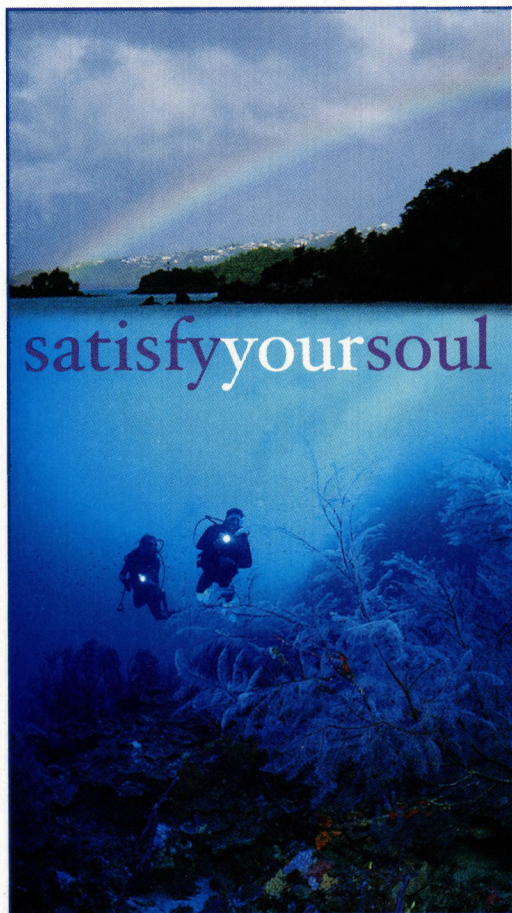
Atlanta Baltimore Boston Chicago Ft. Lauderdale Houston Los Angeles JFK Miami Newark Philadelphia



Caradonna Caribbean Tours Inc.
Customized Scuba Dive Travel

435 Douglas Ave., Ste. 2205, Altamonte Spgs., FL 32714 • 407/774-9000 • Fax 407/682-6000
See our website for more info on above: www.caradonna.com • E-mail: sales@caradonna.com

USA & Canada: 800/328-2288



Come to one of the Caribbean's most unspoilt island groups offering spectacular landscapes, beautiful beaches and turquoise blue waters. We offer a diverse range of activities to suit every holidaymaker's desire.

Diving...

The tropical seas that surround St. Vincent & the Grenadines offer a world of marine adventure. Whether you're skimming on the surface on a windsurfer or sunfishing or gliding below through shoals of fish and colourful corals, this is one of the Caribbean's most beautiful marine environments. Swim, dive or snorkel...*satisfy your soul*



St. Vincent & the Grenadines

St. Vincent & the Grenadines Ministry of Tourism, Kingstown, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, West Indies. Tel: (784) 457-1502 email: tourism@caribsurf.com
UK: Tel 44 0207-937-6570 email: svgtourism-europe@aol.com USA: Tel: 1 800 729-1726 email: svgtony@aol.com CANADA: Tel (416) 398-4277 www.svgtourism.com

SEACAM silver...simply superior



- brilliant magnified viewfinders with +/- 3 diopter correction
- mineral glass ports
- housings for film and digital
- the ultimate in precision

www.seacamusa.com

800-451-3737 • 305-451-3737

distributed in North America and the Caribbean by
Stephen Frink Photographic, Key Largo, Florida Keys

dishes were still stacked in the galley (and still are). A popular wreck, it remains incredibly complete, right down to all the details of the engine room, the ship's name and port of call legible on the hull, the pilot-house with the horns and searchlight on its roof and, most memorably, the ship's wheel still in place.

LAKE MICHIGAN

Sandusky

BUILT IN THIS brig's namesake town, Sandusky, Ohio, in 1848, this wooden ship was lost with all seven hands and a cargo of grain in an 1856 storm in the Straits of Mackinac. *Sandusky* offers positive proof of the Great Lakes' preserving powers. Resting upright in 84 feet of water, the 110-foot-long brig sports a centerboard winch, a bilge pump, numerous deadeyes along its rails, both wooden-stocked bow anchors and a windlass still in place. A completely intact bowsprit, with chains still taut, frames a replica of a unique scroll figurehead resembling a ram's head that was replaced in 1989 after the original was damaged during an attempt to steal it.

LAKE MICHIGAN

Wells Burt

IT WOULD SEEM likely that any wreck lying in only 38 to 45 feet of water just off Chicago, the largest, busiest port on the Great Lakes, couldn't offer much to look at because it would be badly broken up or have had many of its artifacts stolen. But the enormous, three-masted schooner *Wells Burt*, built in 1873 and lost with all hands while riding out a severe storm in 1883, is one of the best examples of the excellent shipwreck diving that is found off the Windy City.

The vessel lies upright, firmly embedded in the clay bottom, with a slight port list. The ship's holds are open and easily accessible. A capstan and a large, impressive windlass stand on deck, while the steering post remains upright at the stern. After several of the vessel's oversized deadeyes were stolen, chains were placed through the "eyes" of the remaining ones.

LAKE MICHIGAN

Prins Willem V

THE OCEANGOING freighter *Prins Willem V*, built in the Netherlands in 1948, was headed back to the old country with a cargo of typically American products (automotive parts, animal hides, jukeboxes) in 1954 when, just three miles out of the Milwaukee harbor, it sank after a freak collision with a tug being towed.

Lying on its side in 90 feet of water and rising to within 48 feet of the surface, the 250-foot-long "Willy" is a multilevel wreck offering unforgettable sights along the deck and hull, including a pair of photogenic masts and several mast winches, a bow winch, the bridge house, radio room, captain's quarters and engine room skylights.

LAKE MICHIGAN

Frank O'Connor

THE WOODEN steamer *Frank O'Connor* caught fire off Cana Island, Wis., in 1919. Before abandoning ship in a lifeboat, the crew hastily opened their ship's seacocks to ensure a faster sinking—hoping that their vessel and its cargo of coal could eventually be salvaged and returned to use.

At its deepest, the wreck rests in 67 feet of water, and sports an impressive 20-foot-tall triple expan-



Plaza Resort Bonaire



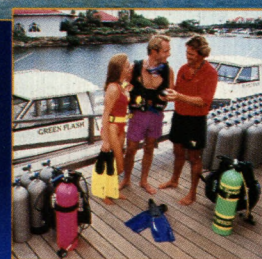
2 for 1 Diving
May, June & September
7 nights from
\$652 diver/dbl

Bonaire's luxury oceanfront resort that "has it all!" Spacious suites and villas, PADI 5-Star dive center, Aquakids, casual Caribbean dining, first-class amenities and more on Bonaire's finest beach!

NEW! 7th Heaven on 18 Palms (suites) from \$704 pp/dbl
3D Drive, Dive, Deluxe (villas) from \$608 pp/quad

Tel: 1-800-766-6016 / 781-821-6016
usa@plazaresortbonaire.com
www.plazaresortbonaire.com

BONAIRE
DIVE FESTIVAL
June 5-19, 2004



BONAIRE

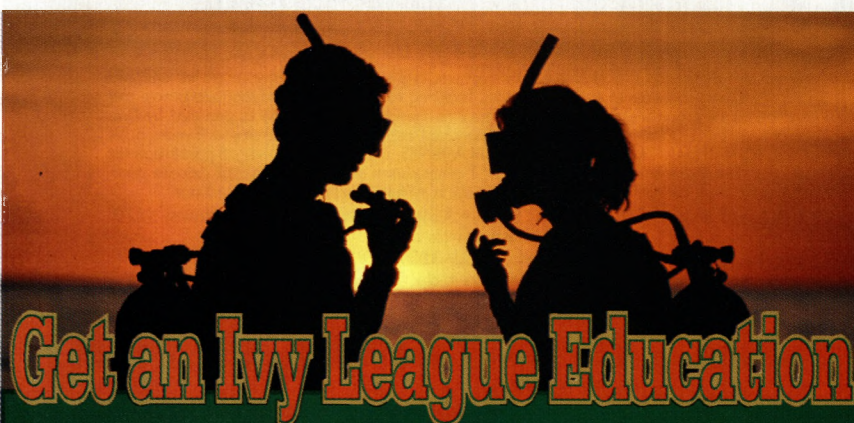
4x Weekly
Champagne Flights



Contact your favorite travel specialist or call:

Island Express
1-800-433-0300

Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, JFK, Miami, Newark, Philadelphia



If you'd like to take your love of scuba diving and turn it into a job, then Pro Dive® should be your school of choice! Located right on the beach in Fort Lauderdale, Pro Dive was the first PADI Career Development Center in the world and PADI now recognizes us as the "most chosen Career Development Center in the U.S.A." Pro Dive offers students Ivy League class training in a real-world diving environment. And with dedicated job placement, Pro Dive's placement director can be counted on to match you with the perfect job!

**Request A
FREE Training Catalog
and CD-ROM**



www.prodiveusa.com

Tollfree **1-800-PRO-DIVE** in the US

Tollfree **0-800-068-9034** in the UK

Phone: **1-954-776-3483**

Fax: **1-954-761-8624**



2004 COZUMEL *Best Values*



PRESIDENTE INTERCONTINENTAL & SCUBA DU

A mile of powder white beach, oceanfront rooms and suites, personalized services and dive packages with Scuba Du dive store on site. Group special one room free per every seven paid.

4 nights/3 days diving, daily buffet breakfast & unlimited shore diving \$480 pp/do
Valid 04/02/04-12/25/04

www.cozumel.intercontinental.com
or www.scubadu.com

800-327-0200 or 011-52-987-872-9500
cozumel@interconti.com, scubadu@cozumel.net



EL CID LA CEIBA & DIVE WITH MARTIN

An island tradition! Features oversized rooms, private balconies, buffet breakfast, tennis, pools, Jacuzzi, hammocks and the best shore diving in Cozumel. As members of the Cozumel Country Club, our guests can play the great Nicklaus-designed golf course.

5 nights/3 days diving \$390 pp/do
7 nights/5 days diving \$581 pp/do

Call for bulk airfare prices
Valid 04/01-09/01/04

www.elcid.com, www.divewithmartin.com
Diving Adventures at 1-800-897-5553
elcidcozumel@diving-adventures.com



DIVE PARADISE & AQUA DREAMS TRAVEL

All-inclusive destination and kid-friendly atmosphere. High-quality beach/dive resort just one mile from downtown and close to the best dive sites. Featuring recently redecorated rooms, a private pier and beach club, and the largest swimming pool on the island. Diving services provided by Dive Paradise - Rodale's Readers' Choice Award Winner for Most Popular Dive Operator for 3 years! BULK AIRFARES WITH MAJOR U.S. AND CARIBBEAN AIRLINES. 1 comp room for every 5 paid (meals not included) Plus \$20 credit per room per stay or 1 comp person all inclusive with 9 all inclusive packages purchased. Welcome Cocktail • Private Check In • Fruit Basket for the Tour Conductor.

5 nights/3 days diving - 8 tanks! \$589 • 7 nights/5 days diving - 14 tanks! \$870

Valid 04/21-12/23/04

Aqua Dreams Travel: 1-888-322-DIVE, 239-540-4512
www.aquadreams.com • dpr@aquadreams.com



CASA DEL MAR COZUMEL

Casa del Mar Cozumel is a beautiful hotel located facing the crystal waters of Cozumel's Mexican Caribbean. You'll enjoy scuba diving, snorkeling and more. Packages include unlimited beach diving, breakfast, welcome cocktail and a 20% discount at the Beach Club.

4 nights/3 days diving \$329 pp/do
7 nights/5 days diving \$529 pp/do

Taxes included for both packages
Valid 04/09/04-08/16/04

www.casadelmarcozumel.com
011-52-987-872-1900
reservations@casadelmarcozumel.com



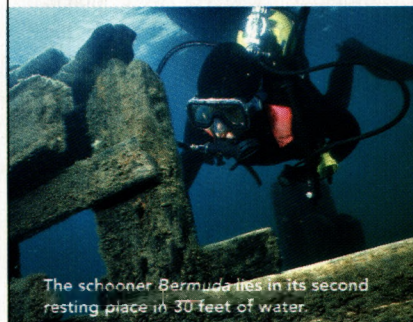
CARADONNA CARIBBEAN TOURS

Great 8 day/7 night packages from \$472. Includes 4 days, 3 tank & 1 day, 2 tank boat diving. Caradonna Caribbean Tours, Cozumel's #1 Dive Travel Specialist offering great bulk airfares from your home city. Ask us about our special group rates.

1-800-328-2288

sales@caradonna.com
www.caradonna.com

sion steam engine, two large scotch boilers, a steam windlass, a capstan, bow chain, rudder and steering quadrant both lying flat, and a huge, four-bladed propeller. This wreck is popular among divers off Wisconsin's historic Door County peninsula.



The schooner *Bermuda* lies in its second resting place in 30 feet of water.

LAKE SUPERIOR

Bermuda

UPRIGHT, INTACT, easily penetrable and eminently explorable in 12 to 30 feet of water, this vintage 1860 schooner is one of the most popular wrecks in all of the Great Lakes.

Bermuda foundered during a storm in Munising Bay's deeper water in 1870 with the loss of three lives, but was raised in 1883, along with its heavy iron ore cargo, and towed into the shallow, protected waters of Grand Island's Murray Bay. There, the towing chains accidentally slipped before the ship reached its destination. Most of the iron ore was recovered in place, but *Bermuda* never sailed again. The shallow depth allows divers lots of bottom time to savor its features, including bow samson post, three hatches, extensive wooden railing and a distinctive rudder post. **SD**

GET THERE

**> For more
information**

on these Great Lakes wrecks, turn to In Depth, page 105, section 3.

Package prices reflect low season travel dates, blackout dates apply. Contact these partners for details.

Get a free backpack when you join the Pacific Photo Shootout aboard the *Truk Aggressor II* in November.



13 Ways to Save

Dive more, pay less, with these packages featuring destinations from Belize to Bali.

PALAU OR TRUK LAGOON,
MICRONESIA

Picture This

1 THE DEAL: Two seven-day Pacific Photo Shootout workshops are offered by the Aggressor Fleet. Photographer Mauricio Handler will offer instruction in over-under or split photography, extreme macro and mixed lighting, using a housed camera. The first trip is on the *Palau Aggressor II*, Nov. 14-21, 2004, and the second trip is aboard the *Truk Aggressor II*, Nov. 21-28, 2004. Price for each trip is \$2,945 p.p., dbl. occ., and includes five-and-a-half days' diving, night dives, airport transfers, meals and beverages, local beer and wine, and a chance to win gear from Aquatica, Light & Motion, XS Scuba, Technical Lighting Control and Ikelite. Mention *Scuba Diving* for a free Dive 44 backpack. Book both trips back-to-back and save \$200. (800-348-2628, www.aggressor.com)

PUERTO RICO

Free Hotskin

2 THE DEAL: The first 20 people to reserve a spot on the Puerto Rico Photo Expedition receive a free Henderson Hotskin. Plus, underwater shooters get free Fuji Provia 100 film. From May 8-15, 2004, you'll enjoy seven nights' accommodations

at the Copamarina Resort and accompany photographers Georgienne Bradley and Jay Ireland to a variety of settings, both under water and topside. Included are five days of two-tank dives, mangrove tour and snorkel, and hikes in the Guanica Dry Forest. Plus, you could win expedition prizes like Princeton Tec lights (Shockwave II, Tec-400 and Tec-40), SeaLife ReefMaster cameras and more. Price is \$829 p.p., dbl. occ., transfers not included. An all-inclusive rate of \$1,448 p.p., dbl. occ., is also available, which includes three meals daily and unlimited juices, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages. (800-301-1467)

COZUMEL, MEXICO

Iberostar for \$999

3 THE DEAL: Stay seven nights at the all-inclusive Iberostar Cozumel

hotel during its spring and summer special April 12 to June 30, 2004. For \$999 p.p., dbl. occ., taxes included, you'll also get five days of two-tank boat dives with Dressel Divers, plus all meals, snacks and unlimited bar. Discount airfare available. (866-423-7678, dive@iberostar-hotels.com)

CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA

Explore the Great Barrier Reef

4 THE DEAL: Explorer Ventures offers a discount through May 31, 2004, on three trips aboard the *Nimrod Explorer* live-aboard. Prices range from US\$1,095 to US\$1,645 p.p., dbl. occ., with 12 to 23 dives, depending on the length of the trip. Prices include the use of full gear with computer, flight transfers, meals and snacks, alcoholic beverages, and 10 percent Australian goods and services tax. (www.explorerventures.com)

KAUAI, HAWAII

Get More For Less

5 THE DEAL: The price drops each day for six days, from \$125 to \$93.50 p.p., including BC and regulator rental, with this multiday discount from Seasport Divers. As a bonus, you get free processing for one roll of film. Valid through May 31, 2004. (800-685-5889, www.seasport-divers.com)

BONAIRE DIVE FESTIVAL

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL Bonaire Dive Festival is scheduled for two weeks this year, June 5-19, 2004. There'll be diving for all levels of experience and island-wide events, including diving, contests, demos and lots more. For individual resort package information, visit the Dive Festival web site, www.bonairedive-festival.com. Dive deals include Captain Don's Habitat, from \$583 p.p., quad. occ., www.habitatdiveresorts.com or www.maduro.com; Plaza Resort Bonaire, from \$608 p.p., quad. occ., www.plazaresortbonaire.com; Sand Dollar Condominium Resort, from \$593 p.p., quad. occ., www.sanddollarbonaire.com; and Buddy Dive Resort, from \$589 p.p., six-person minimum, www.buddydive.com.



DIVE DEALS

COZUMEL, MEXICO

Four Free Dives

6 THE DEAL: Plaza las Glorias offers a seven-night stay, five days of two-tank morning dives with Dive Paradise, and four free single-tank afternoon dives for \$649 p.p., dbl. occ, taxes included. Add all meals and unlimited bar for \$199.

Rates are valid from April 16 to June 10, 2004. (888-599-3483, www.bayadventures.com)

CRYSTAL RIVER, FLA.

Swim with Manatees

7 THE DEAL: Crystal River Watersports offers a two-day manatee and

Florida spring tour for a discounted \$400 p.p., two-person minimum. Mention *Scuba Diving* and get free use of a camera and film. The first day's itinerary begins with a manatee snorkel and dive tour in Crystal River, then an afternoon drift dive down Rainbow River. On the second day, make spring dives at Blue Grotto and Devil's Den springs. Special includes entrance fees, boat fees, gear rentals and dive guide. Available from April 1 to Sept. 30, 2004. (877-463-4846, www.floridamanateetours.com)

SOUTH CAICOS, TURKS & CAICOS

Expanding Business

8 THE DEAL: Salt Cay Divers has opened a dive operation on South Caicos, and is offering a grand opening special. Stay eight days and seven nights in the South Caicos Lodge or the Tradewinds Guest Suites for \$650 p.p., dbl. occ., plus five days of two-tank dives, one night dive and airport transfers. Valid until May 31, 2004. (649-946-6906, www.saltcaydivers.tc)

CAYMAN BRAC

A Family Affair

9 THE DEAL: Family Week on Cayman Brac includes day trips to Little Cayman, cruises around Cayman Brac, snorkeling, bird-watching, hiking and more. Supplied Air Snorkeling for Youth (SASY) and Bubblemaker programs are available. Prices are \$859 p.p., dbl. occ., for adults and \$359 p.p. for children under 12, including airfare from Miami, seven nights' accommodations at the Brac Caribbean Beach Village or Carib Sands Beach Resort, a Family Week pass, hotel transfers and hotel taxes. Dates: July 11-18, 2004. (866-THE-BRAC, www.naturecayman.com)

BALI, INDONESIA

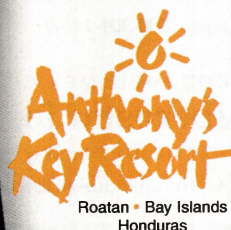
Dive Bali for \$500

10 THE DEAL: Dive off Bali, the Gili Islands and Lombok on the

At Anthony's Key, every day is a new adventure.

Miles of pristine barrier reefs & walls. Wild parrots & fiery sunsets. Rustic bungalows on the shore.

Dolphins that kiss. Horseback rides in the surf. Kayaking, hiking, jungle treks.

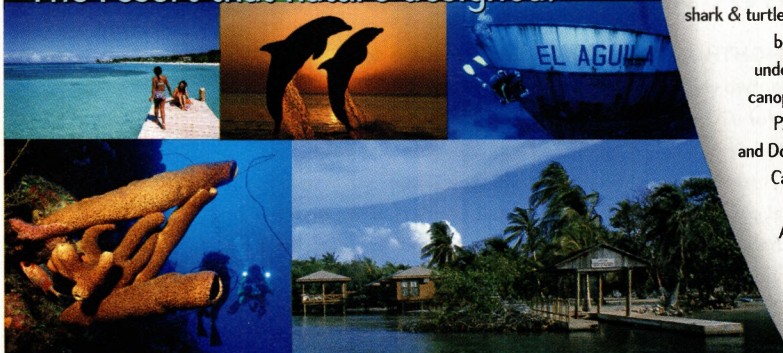


Roatan • Bay Islands
Honduras

Drift diving by moonlight, shark & turtle encounters, beach picnics under a coconut canopy. Five-star PADI training and Dolphin Scuba Camp for kids.

And so much more.

The resort that nature designed.



7 night all-inclusive Dolphin and Scuba Camp just \$625* per child

Weekly programs for ages 5-14 offered May-Aug, 2004

* Based on max of one child per adult, staying in same room. 16% hotel tax not included.

For the perfect family vacation call
800.443.0717 / 954.929.0090
or visit www.anthonyskey.com

Queen of the Sea live-aboard through May 31, 2004, at an introductory rate of \$500. The four-day, three-night package includes unlimited tanks and dives, meals cooked by five-star chefs, all snacks and nonalcoholic beverages, beach barbecue when possible and land culture trips with a small charge for a local guide. On group trips, mention *Scuba Diving* and the sixth person goes free. (62-361-742-5604, www.queenofthesea.info)

TAVEUNI, FIJI

Digital Shootout

11 THE DEAL: The third underwater Digital Shootout in Fiji is May 6-15, 2004. For \$2,399 p.p., dbl. occ., taxes included, you get round-trip airfare from Los Angeles, seven nights' accommodations at the Garden Island Resort, five days of two-tank dives, all meals, transfers, Fijian *meke* (cultural dinner), all seminars and use of digital demo gear. Seminars and hands-on workshops include Adobe Photoshop image control and Adobe Premiere video editing, and one-on-one digital and video assistance. (888-390-9675, www.theshootout.org)

BELIZE

Belize by Live-aboard

12 THE DEAL: Peter Hughes offers a low-rate discount on seven nights aboard the *Sun Dancer II* from June 26 to Dec. 25, 2004, in a master stateroom for \$1,695, deluxe stateroom for \$1,595, or owner's suite for \$1,495, all p.p., dbl. occ. There is a \$65 port charge and \$15 recompression chamber support fee. Package includes all meals and beverages (including alcohol), airport transfers in Belize City, five-and-a-half days' diving and up to five dives per day. (www.peterhughes.com)

EXUMA CAYS, BAHAMAS

Fish Roundup

13 THE DEAL: The New England Aquarium in Boston hosts a unique

trip from April 24 to May 4, 2004, on the *R/V Coral Reef II* live-aboard to collect fish and marine life for tropical exhibits at the aquarium. The 11-day trip includes about nine days diving off the Exumas Cays, Conception Island, Rum Cay and the Crooked Islands, round-trip airfare from Boston, transfers, all meals, and a rare opportunity

to dive in the Aquarium's Giant Ocean Tank. The trip also includes a visit to the Atlantis Aquarium on Paradise Island. The last day will be spent in Miami preparing fish for shipment to the aquarium. Price is \$3,850 for members and \$3,895 for non-members. Must be 18 or older. (617-973-5248, hbourbon@neaq.org)

SD

XCEL WETSUITS

DURABLE STRETCH
LESS SEAMS MORE STRETCH

INFINITI SYSTEM

- SNAG RESISTANT ULTRASPAN • ADJUSTABLE COMFORT COLLAR SEAL SYSTEM
- GLIDESKIN WRIST SEALS • EASY ON-OFF SEMI-DRY ANKLE SEAL SYSTEM
- DURAFLEX TIRE NYLON KNEE PANELS

XCELWETSUITS.COM P.808-637-6239

The diagram shows a cross-section of the wetsuit's construction with labels: SYNERGY, SEAMS, INSIDE, OUTSIDE, ULTRASTRETCH COMPOSITE S-SEAL, SNAG RESISTANT ULTRASPAN, UV RESISTANT ULTRASTRETCH GLUE, COMPRESSION RESISTANT NEOPRENE 250%+ STRETCH, and BLINDSTITCH. It also highlights 'LESS SEAMS' and 'MORE STRETCH'.

The World's Best Shore Diving

A guided tour of the world's top self-guided diving.

IN A PERFECT WORLD, we wouldn't need dive boats. Every great reef, wreck and wall site would lie just a few fin kicks from shore. We'd be able to act on a whim on a sunny afternoon, toss the tanks in the trunk, drive to the beach and wade up to our snorkel tips in warm, clear water. Of course the world isn't perfect, but there are a few places where, on a flat-calm day with a reef beckoning just offshore, it sure can seem that way.

Scuba Diving readers rated dozens of dive destinations to name the best places in the world for walk-in diving.

(SCORE: 98)

1 Bonaire THE YELLOW-PAINTED STONES

lining Bonaire's coastal road speak to shore divers in the same way the neon lights of the Las Vegas strip speak to gam-



blers—with the promise of riches. Credit the island's geography and its pioneering marine park. The geography creates the perfect combination of conditions for some of the most stress-free diving in the world, and the marine park makes it equally stress-free for the world-famous reefs. The stones along the island's concave western shore mark the entry points for 60 shore-accessible sites, and each one offers a different look at Bonaire's marine environment. A list of the island's stand-out sites includes many of the world's best shore dives: **Salt Pier, Karpata, 1,000 Steps, Invisibles, Rappel, La Dania's Leap**, the wreck of the *Hilma Hooker* and more.

(SCORE: 84.6)

2 U.S. Virgin Islands DIVERS LOOKING FOR

some boat-free action in "America's Caribbean" head for St. Croix, the largest of the U.S.

Virgin Islands. The most popular shore dive on the island is **Cane Bay Drop-Off**, which is accessed from the picturesque and uncrowded beach at Cane Bay. Swim out 100 yards or so over the shallow inner reef to find spur-and-groove formations at 40 feet, leading to the wall, which drops well beyond recreational limits. After the dive, dry off and walk across the street to have lunch at Boz's Beach Bar. Now, with a full stomach, you can head west a mile from Cane Bay to find the entry for **Northstar Wall**, another great shore dive. This site features a number of abandoned anchors, a cavern filled with

STEVE SIMONSEN (LEFT); CHRIS JAFFE (TOP)





It doesn't get any better than this: Bonaire's combination of ideal conditions and close reefs make it the top shore-diving destination in the world.

silversides at 60 feet and frequent visits from turtles. On the west side of St. Croix, the pilings of **Frederiksted Pier** are blanketed with sponges and corals and inhabited by macro species, including arrow crabs, brittle stars, coral shrimp and featherduster worms.

(SCORE: 81.8)

3 British Columbia
THE SHORE DIVING available from Vancouver Island and along the convoluted western coast of this Canadian province is as breathtaking and varied as

the topside scenery. Not far from the city of Vancouver, you can find hot spots like **Porteau Cove**, a provincial park catering to shore divers. Look for lingcod and metridium anemones on the reefs, as well as a number of wrecks, including the wooden-hulled minesweeper **Nakaya**. Farther north you'll find the Sunshine Coast, and sites like **Mermaid Cove**, where you can search for octopuses around this site's namesake mermaid statue. Over on Vancouver Island, you can brave the occasionally strong currents of **Ten Mile Point** to look for wolf eels and marvel at the site's anemone-carpeted wall.

(SCORE: 80.4)

4 Big Island, Hawaii
SOME OF THE BEST diving in Hawaii can be reached by shore along the Kona Coast of the Big Island. At **Place of Refuge**, a lava shelf provides an easy spot to suit up before you explore a site that offers everything from turtles to whitetip sharks and spinner dolphins. **Kealakekua Bay Historical Park** marks the spot where Captain James Cook died in 1779 and provides a great jumping-off point for kayakers and divers to explore

the bay's waters. Swim through thick schools of yellow tangs in the shallows to reach the steep slope at the north side of the bay. At **Puako**, 30 miles north of Kailua-Kona, you can swim down a lava tube to exit on the ocean side of the lava shelf, where green sea turtles may be waiting to greet you.

(SCORE: 80)

5 Washington State
SEATTLE IS KNOWN for good coffee and bad weather, but according to our readers, it should be equally renowned for its proximity to some of the world's best shore diving. **Seacrest Park** is a popular weekend spot for open-water checkout dives, but experienced divers love it because it's a great place to find giant Pacific octopuses and

rare six-gill sharks. Other shore dive sites line Puget Sound from **Kayak Point County Park** in the north to **Sunny Side Park**, south of Tacoma.

(SCORE: 78.6)

6 Curaçao
LIKE ITS SISTER ISLAND, Bonaire, Curaçao has marked its numerous shore dives with stones, making it a snap to find great diving from the driver's seat of your rental car. Many of the island's best sites can be dived without a boat, including the wreck of the **Superior Producer**. The beach at **Port Marie** rivals the site's reef for beauty, and offers top-notch facilities including a dive shop and restaurant, for that post-dive snack. **Nos Kas**, the house reef at Habitat Curaçao, is a

prime viewing spot for the coral spawning that occurs five days after the full moon in September and October.

(SCORE: 76.9)

7 Egyptian Red Sea
IF YOU WANT TO combine your diving with a little topside adventure in the Egyptian desert, head for Dahab on the Sinai Peninsula, where some dive centers use camels to transport divers and gear to remote shore-diving sites. Dahab's **Blue Hole** is a unique shore site—connected to land, the walls of this formation plunge more than 300 feet through the reef. Also near Dahab, **The Canyon** is a deep, cathedral-like chasm completely enclosed on all sides except for two openings in the ceiling.



Best of the Bahamas...

The best diving...the best cruising...the best liveaboard lifestyle

Twice the fun...Half the cost!
Pirate's Lady, Sea Explorer, and Morning Star sail the crystal waters of the Bahamas on weekly dive/cruise adventures.

\$839
per week.

Blackbeard's
cruises

P.O. Box 661091, Miami, FL 33266,
1 (800) 327-9600 • (305) 888-1226 • Fax (305) 884-4214,
www.blackbeard-cruises.com • e-mail: ro@blackbeard-cruises.com

102 feet of liveaboard luxury...
...leaving weekly from Nassau to the Exuma Cays.
Diving, snorkeling, sea-kayaking, fishing, birding, beaching...
the ultimate escape on your own private yacht.

AQUA CAT
cruises

P.O. Box 661658 Miami, FL 33266
1 (888) 327-9600 • (305) 888-3002 • Fax: (305) 885-3323
www.aquacatcruises.com • email: ro@aquacatcruises.com

(SCORE: 76.5)

8 Maui, Hawaii

MAUI'S LEEWARD western shore is lined with great dive sites, including many that are accessible without a boat. From the Sheraton Hotel on Kaanapali Beach you can dive **Black Rock**, a shallow site that features a lava outcropping along with eagle rays, turtles and an unusual abundance of eels. There are more than five caves at the site known as **Five Caves**, and most of them are full of life. Expect turtles, whitetip sharks and lobster.

(SCORE: 72)

9 Grand Cayman

WHILE SHORE DIVING isn't the first thing that comes to many divers'

minds at the mention of Grand Cayman, there are a variety of great shore-accessible sites here. On the West End, try **Eden Rock** and **Devil's Grotto**, two sites with a network of caverns to explore. From **Sunset House**, you can visit one of the most-photographed underwater monuments in the world. You'll find the nine-foot bronze statue of **Amphitrite** in 50 feet of water, just a 10-minute swim from shore.

(SCORE: 66.7)

10 Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras

WHEN YOU'RE NOT on a dive boat searching for whale sharks, you can hit the beach. **Laguna Beach Resort** and **Utila Lodge** each offer shore diving from their facilities. At Laguna Beach, you can kick out 150 yards to find a wall that drops from 15 to over 100 feet. **SD**

HOW WE GOT THE SCORES

RESULTS ARE based on a response of more than 6,000 surveys. Readers rated dive destinations in a variety of categories on a scale of one to five. Scores listed here represent the percentage of fours (very good) and fives (excellent) awarded to each of these destinations in the shore diving category. A minimum number of responses was required for a destination to be included in these ratings.

**SOUTHERN CROSS CLUB, LITTLE CAYMAN**

Eleven comfortable beach bungalows, world famous diving, sport fishing, outstanding cuisine and an award winning international staff. Maximum of 12

divers per dive boat. Barefoot Luxury.
800.899.2582
relax@southerncrossclub.com
www.southerncrossclub.com

**LITTLE CAYMAN BEACH RESORT**

Unspoiled and unsurpassed, Little Cayman Beach Resort offers unparalleled world-class diving adventures. Voted best dive resort, best dive operation,

best restaurant, best staff – call today!
800.594.6697
bestdiving@reefseas.com
www.littlecayman.com

**PARADISE VILLAS**

The only 100% oceanfront resort on Little Cayman. Twelve seaside villas with kitchenettes, oceanfront dining, and an award winning dive operation. Top rated

Resort in the 2003 Rodale's Readers Ratings.
877.3.CAYMAN
info@paradisevillas.com
www.paradisevillas.com

Capt. *MV Keith Tibbetts,*
Cayman Brac

www.divecayman.ky

Dive into the coolest 80° water on Earth.

Cayman Brac • Little Cayman

Close to home. Far from expected.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

**BRAC VACATIONS**

Sunshine, blue water, awesome diving and incredible accommodations. That's your vacation at Carib Sands or Brac Caribbean. Fully equipped condominiums, on-site dive

operation, fine dining.
866.THE.BRAC (866.843.2722)
info@866thebrac.com
www.866thebrac.com

**SAM MCCOY'S DIVE LODGE**

A 5 minute boat ride to world renowned Bloody Bay Wall, we offer flexible dive schedules, authentic Caymanian hospitality and cuisine in a relaxed and

casual atmosphere.
800.626.0496
info@mccoyslodge.com.ky
www.mccoyslodge.com.ky

**DIVI TIARA BEACH RESORT**

A casual, barefoot delight on quaint Cayman Brac – a favorite among divers worldwide. 71 guest rooms and Divi Dive Tiara, a PADI

5-Star dive operation on site.
800.367.3484
reserve@diviresorts.com
www.diviresorts.com

p h o t o

[Q U E S T]

16

OF THE MOST PHOTOGENIC SUBJECTS UNDER THE WAVES, AND THE BEST PLACES IN THE WORLD TO FIND THEM.

Great photography is like great cooking: It takes a lot of quality ingredients to produce something worthy of being served to guests. In photography, these ingredients include technical skill, favorable conditions and a little luck. But top professional photographers know that before they can begin to think about those elements, they have to know one thing: where to find the subjects they want to shoot. On the following pages, you'll find 16 stunning images of 16 stunning subjects. The one element all these photographs share is that the photographers who shot them knew where to go to make them happen. Join these pros for a whirlwind tour of some of the world's most productive underwater photo destinations.



NINGALOO REEF, AUSTRALIA

Whale Sharks

There are no fish in the sea bigger than whale sharks, and there's no destination more reliable for whale shark encounters than Ningaloo Reef, off Western Australia. As many as 300 of the gentle giants visit the waters around Ningaloo for several months each year, most consistently during the mass coral and invertebrate spawnings that follow seven days after the full moons in March and April. Whale sharks swim close to the surface, so many photographers choose to wear snorkel gear, allowing them to get in and out of the water quickly. Some dive operations here employ spotter planes to sight the sharks and then drop photographers right in their path. Whale sharks have great smiles, but I was intrigued by the size differential between the vertical tail fin of the animal and the diver next to it. To highlight this difference, I used a fisheye lens and got as close as possible to the subject. —**AMOS NACHOUM**

Other whale shark hot spots: Utila, Honduras; Galapagos Islands; southern Belize; Flower Garden Banks, Gulf of Mexico.

PHOTOGRAPH BY AMOS NACHOUM





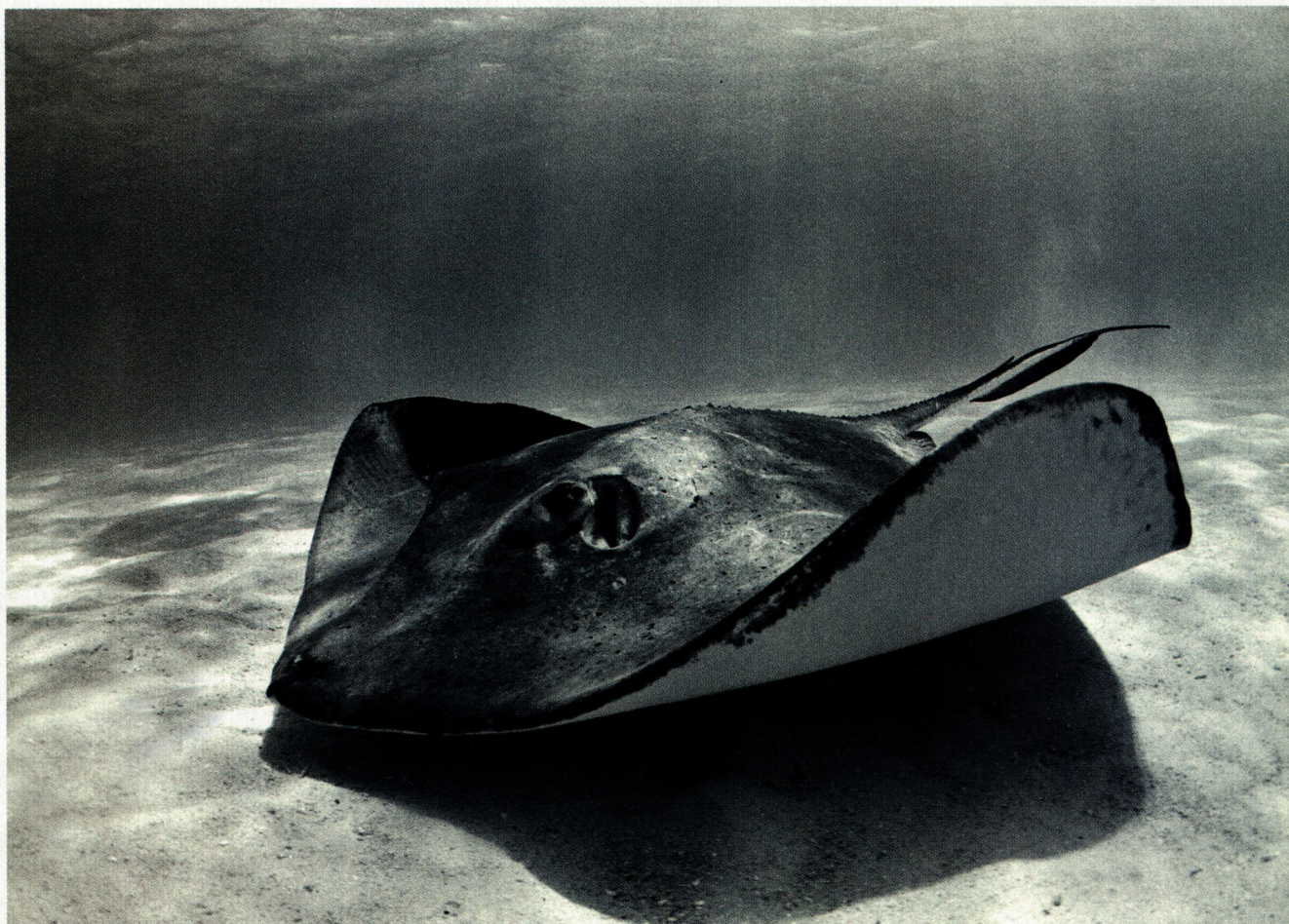
CHANNEL ISLANDS,
CALIFORNIA

Kelp Forests

The seas surrounding California's Channel Islands harbor one of the most diverse and rich marine environments in the world. But the water is cold, and it's giant forests of algae, not canyons of coral, that sustain life here. Sometimes called "redwoods of the sea," huge beds of giant kelp can be found around all the islands. Some of the most pristine kelp beds lie off the southern islands including San Clemente and Catalina Island. Growing as much as two feet a day from depths near 90 feet, these plants form dense canopies that support more than 1,000 species of plants and animals. On a clear day, with sunlight filtering through the canopy, it's hard to imagine a more spectacular subject for wide-angle photography. —

RALPH CLEVINGER

PHOTOGRAPH BY
RALPH CLEVINGER



PHOTOGRAPH BY DONALD TIPTON

STINGRAY CITY, GRAND CAYMAN

Southern Stingrays

As familiar as stingrays may be to visitors to Grand Cayman's best-known dive site, it's their bizarre form that makes them such great photo subjects—their prehistoric eyes, their bird-like wings, their vacuum-cleaner mouths. At Stingray City, photographers have the opportunity to capture every detail of that alien form, and from every possible angle. You can shoot mobs of rays scrambling for a squid handout or a pair of rays posing with a diver. And, if you sneak away from the action to a quiet corner of this sandy site, you can capture a single stingray, dramatically lit, coming in for a soft landing. —DONALD TIPTON

Other stingray hot spots: Shark Ray Alley, Ambergris Caye, Belize; Gibbs Cay, Turks & Caicos.




CRYSTAL RIVER, FLA.

Manatees

Manatees are everywhere here: on license plates, lawn ornaments and mailbox holders, and, of course, under water, cruising the riverways and congregating near warm springs. For close-up encounters with endearing, endangered sea cows, the sleepy, west-central Florida town of Crystal River is the world's best place for man to photograph manatees. In the winter months, hundreds of manatees come to bask in the spring water, and some make friendly and cooperative photo subjects. Because the 72-degree water is only two to 10 feet deep, you can leave the scuba gear at home. Mask, snorkel, exposure suit and camera are all you'll need to capture memorable portraits of their puppy-dog faces. —**BRANDON COLE**

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRANDON COLE



COCOS ISLAND

Hammerhead Sharks

Scalloped hammerheads aren't the only sharks found in abundance at Cocos Island, but they are the signature species of this remote volcanic outcrop and, in many ways, the most photogenic. The big sharks congregate here year-round and offer photographers the opportunity to capture dramatic wide-angle images of schools that number in the hundreds. The island, located more than 300 miles off Costa Rica, is reached by a 36-hour steam on a live-aboard dive boat. The long trip will give you the chance to practice breathing normally while imagining an endless parade of hammerheads in front of your lens. —**AMOS NACHOUM**

Other hammerhead hot spots: Galapagos Islands; Malpelo Island, Colombia; Baja, Mexico; Papua New Guinea; Rangiroa Atoll, French Polynesia.

PHOTOGRAPH BY AMOS NACHOUM




PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES WATT

KANGAROO ISLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Leafy Sea Dragons

Not known for warm water or lush reefs, Kangaroo Island is, however, one of the world's premier dive destinations, thanks to an exotic animal known as the leafy sea dragon. This rare member of the seahorse family can be found here in relative abundance. The best time to shoot sea dragons is during the Australian summer when the Southern Ocean loses some of its power and diving days increase. Sea dragons can grow up to 12 inches, so they're not exactly a macro subject. Some of the best images of sea dragons are taken with moderate wide-angle lenses that take in a bit of the kelp habitat of the dragons. —JAMES WATT



BAHAMA BANKS

Spotted Dolphins

Flat seas, rippling white sand and shallow, clear blue water: ideal conditions for an encounter with Atlantic spotted dolphins. Only several hours by boat from the coast of Florida, the Bahama Banks offer some of the best dolphin encounters in the world, especially during the summer when the sun is shining and the seas are warm and flat-calm. Spotted dolphins are extremely inquisitive, and will almost always come by to check you out at least once. Many dolphins will stick around if you keep them engaged by interacting with them. I slipped into the water with snorkel, mask and fins just ahead of this mixed pod of spotted and bottlenose dolphins and waited until they approached before diving down to get this shot. —

ERIC CHENG

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC CHENG



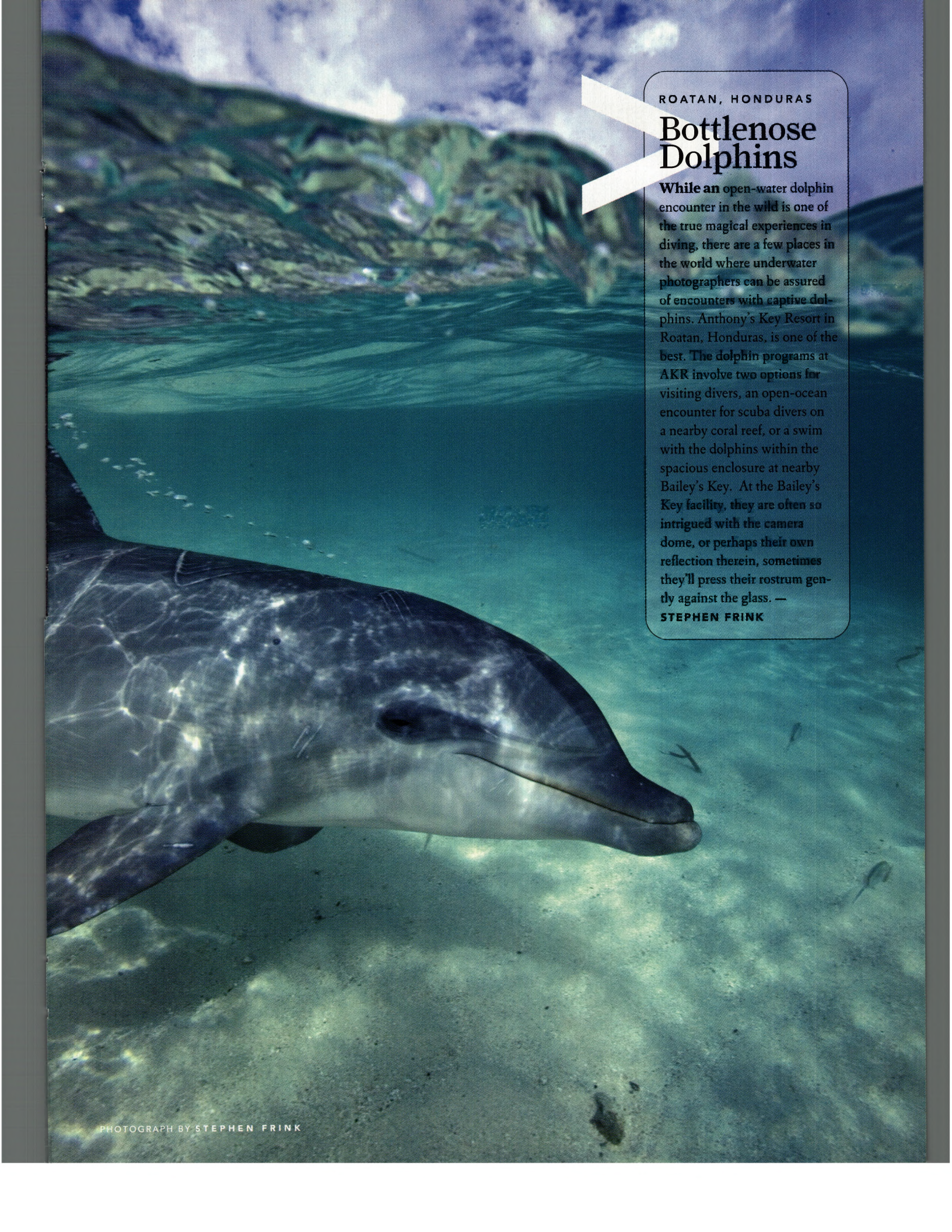


PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID DOUBILET

TASMANIA

Weird Fish

Floating below the belly of the Australian continent is the heart-shaped island state of Tasmania. In the southeast part of the island, the coastline forms a series of massive, dramatic cliffs. The continental shelf here is close to shore, and deep, cold water rolls up the slope into the shallows where dry-suit-clad divers have the unusual opportunity of encountering exotic deepwater creatures among kelp beds and bizarre deepwater sponge gardens. Among the species found here is the Tasmanian red handfish. Handfish are members of the anglerfish family and, like other anglerfish, their pectoral fins have evolved into appendages with elbows. Unlike other anglerfish, the fin tips of handfish do not end in paddles but in webbed hand-like structures that grip the shifting bottom. —DAVID DOUBILET



ROATAN, HONDURAS

Bottlenose Dolphins

While an open-water dolphin encounter in the wild is one of the true magical experiences in diving, there are a few places in the world where underwater photographers can be assured of encounters with captive dolphins. Anthony's Key Resort in Roatan, Honduras, is one of the best. The dolphin programs at AKR involve two options for visiting divers, an open-ocean encounter for scuba divers on a nearby coral reef, or a swim with the dolphins within the spacious enclosure at nearby Bailey's Key. At the Bailey's Key facility, they are often so intrigued with the camera dome, or perhaps their own reflection therein, sometimes they'll press their rostrum gently against the glass. —

STEPHEN FRINK

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHEN FRINK

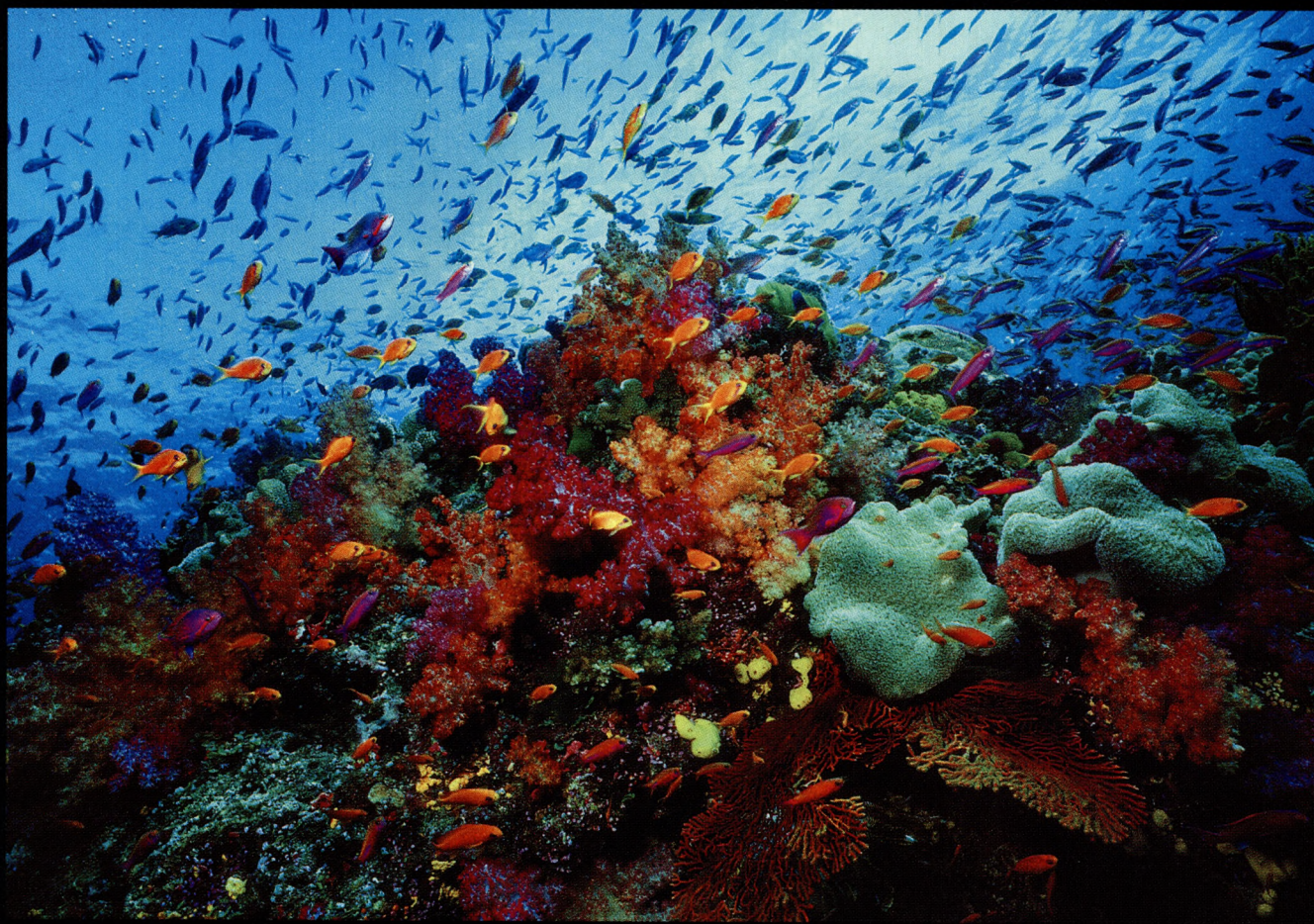
FIJI

Soft Coral

Some of the most photogenic marine creatures in the world are the translucent Indo-Pacific soft corals in the genus *Dendronephthya*. Through a macro lens, the jewel-like colors and delicate details of the stalks glow with what seems to be an interior light. In wide view, the corals embellish the reef with blooms that any gardener would envy. The undisputed capital of the soft coral world is Fiji, an island chain that promotes growth with nutrient-rich currents and, at the same time, protects the corals from ocean swells. Because the soft corals are abundant and the visibility is consistently great, the most difficult thing about shooting the colors of Fiji's reefs is deciding which lens to use. —

PAUL HUMANN

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL HUMANN





PHOTOGRAPH BY DONALD TIPTON

SILVER BANK, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Humpback Whales

Very few experiences under water can compare with a face-to-face encounter with a humpback whale. Ninety miles north of the Dominican Republic lies Silver Bank, a large coral bank where North Atlantic humpbacks migrate each winter to mate and calve. A charter to Silver Bank allows you to strap on a snorkel (no scuba allowed) and slip into the water to photograph these 30- to 50-foot mammals. The most poignant encounters are with mother humpbacks and their young calves, swimming alongside. It's a sight that demonstrates a common bond between man and whale, and creates some of the ocean's most compelling photographic opportunities.

—DONALD TIPTON

Other humpback hot spots: Niue; Tonga; Maui, Hawaii.

A large group of sea lions is swimming in clear blue water. One sea lion is prominently featured in the center, swimming towards the viewer. Other sea lions are scattered throughout the frame, some swimming away and others towards the camera. The water is a deep blue, and the sea lions have a light brown or tan color. The overall scene is dynamic and captures a moment of marine life in its natural habitat.

SANTA BARBARA ISLAND, CALIF.

Sea Lions

Because of the relative isolation of California's Channel Islands, the breeding areas of many species of marine mammals, including the ubiquitous California sea lion, have survived intact into the 21st century. All the islands have pinniped rookeries, but for sea lions, tiny Santa Barbara Island is one of the best. You'll find hundreds of sea lions in the water at the noisy rookery on the southeast end of the island. Swimming out to greet divers, dozens of young sea lions play around divers, blowing bubbles and biting fins, then follow you back to the boat to wait for the next round of divers. —RALPH CLEVENGER

PHOTOGRAPH BY RALPH CLEVENGER



PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHELE WESTMORLAND

LEMBEH STRAIT, INDONESIA

Muck Creatures

Among macro photographers and other aficionados of strange creatures, Indonesia's Lembeh Strait is renowned as the muck-diving capital of the world. Here, you'll find a bizarre assortment of fishes and invertebrates: mimic octopuses, flamboyant cuttlefish, wart-skin frogfish, ghost pipefishes, weedy scorpionfish and cockatoo waspfish. Off the northeast coast of the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, Lembeh Strait is also known for its rich large-grain sand that is the perfect background for shooting the area's menagerie of weirdness. On a night dive, it was easy to spot the shimmering sapphire eyes of the spiny flathead (pictured above) peering out of the sand. —STUART AND MICHELE WESTMORLAND



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES WATT

A black and white photograph showing a diver in a wetsuit and mask swimming horizontally above a large manta ray. The ray is seen from below, showing its underside with dark spots and its long, thin pectoral fins. The background is the dark, textured surface of the ocean.

SOCORRO ISLANDS,
MEXICO

Manta Rays

The remote and uninhabited Socorro Islands act as a magnet for big marine life, including giant Pacific manta rays. Located 220 miles southwest of the tip of Mexico's Baja Peninsula, the Socorros, also known as the Revillagigedo Islands, comprise three main islands: Socorro, San Benedicto and Clarion. Off San Benedicto, one of the hot spots for manta action is a flat-topped seamount known as the Boiler. Mantas gather here, especially in the late morning and early afternoon, to be cleaned by barberfish and angelfish. The big rays approach and interact with divers on a regular basis, offering one great photo op after another. —**JAMES WATT**

Other manta hot spots:

Yap, Micronesia; Kona Coast, Big Island, Hawaii.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC CHENG

GUADALUPE ISLAND, MEXICO

Great White Sharks

Most people think that a trip to South Africa or Australia is necessary for an encounter with great white sharks, but hop on a boat in San Diego and 22 hours later you can be surrounded by white sharks in the clear waters around Guadalupe Island. Guadalupe is approximately 250 miles from San Diego, and every fall up to 100 great white sharks visit the island, offering an adrenaline-pumping experience to intrepid adventurers and photographers willing to endure the long boat ride from the States. All of the shark viewing in Guadalupe is done from the safety of sturdy metal cages, but you'll still have to sign a waiver to get in the water. —ERIC CHENG

Other great white hot spots: South Africa; Australia.

A large, dark underwater photograph. In the upper left, a diver is visible in silhouette against a slightly lighter, greenish background. In the lower right, a large crab with a mottled orange and brown pattern is resting on a dark, rocky seabed. The overall scene is dimly lit, with some light reflecting off the water and the crab's shell.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Cold-Water Invertebrates

What the cold waters of British Columbia lack in coral cover, they more than make up for with an astounding variety of invertebrate life. Pink, orange, white and lavender anemones, lacy basket stars, giant nudibranchs, jellyfish and cloud sponges form a polychromatic backdrop on most dive sites. And crawling among these more stationary inverts, you'll find decorator crabs, hermit crabs, red rock crabs and Puget Sound king crabs (pictured here). This image was shot in an area known as the Sunshine Coast. As along most of the coast here, the underwater sunshine comes only in the winter months. From December through March, you can find 150-foot visibility to make the most of B.C.'s kaleidoscope of underwater colors. —**DAVID B. FLEETHAM**

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID B. FLEETHAM



LESSONS FOR

Life

By Michael Ange

(DIVE ACCIDENTS, CLOSE CALLS
& HOW YOU CAN AVOID THEM)

FILE :

71
#

(THIS IS A TRUE STORY,
BUT THE NAMES HAVE
BEEN CHANGED.)

RIVER BLINDNESS

In the low visibility of a busy river channel, one diver loses his way and his life.

COLIN HEARD THE THRUMMING PROPELLERS coming closer and closer. The noise was almost deafening, but in the dark water he couldn't tell which direction it was coming from and he couldn't see the vessel anywhere around. What had started out as a fun dive for artifacts had quickly turned into a blackwater nightmare. Circling in the water, he searched frantically for the rest of his dive group but found only darkness. Disoriented and confused, Colin finally decided to try to make his escape by submerging deeper into the river channel. He started to descend and felt the pressure wave from the bow only a fraction of a second before the hull of the barge slammed into his body.



Superior Oceanfront Suites

**SAN PEDRO TOWN
ON AMBERGRIS CAYE**



GROUP RATES AVAILABLE

Dive Packages available
with Aqua Dives Belize

Special Dive Packages*

Diver \$699 pp/do

Valid May 1 - December 14, 2004

800-641-2994

www.aquamarinasuites.com

aquamarina@btl.net

**MAYAN PRINCESS
Special!**



Right in the heart of
Ambergris Caye!

7 nights hotel
5 days of 2-tank boat diving
Roundtrip air from Belize City
to Ambergris Caye

\$638
taxes included



Call for discount air to Belize!

1-888-599-3483

www.bayadventures.com

Rates are pp/do. Valid May 1 - Nov. 14, 2004.

LESSONS FOR LIFE

THE DIVER

Colin was an active diver with both civilian and military scuba training. He was in his mid-40s and in excellent health. Colin worked out regularly and dived between 10 and 15 times a year.

THE DIVE

When invited to dive in nearly black water at a popular river dive site, Colin jumped at the opportunity to get wet. In spite of the poor visibility, the site was popular with local divers as a place to find fossilized sharks' teeth and other artifacts. It was a sweltering summer day and the heat was almost unbearable,

divers in the group immediately submerged and began sifting silt on the bottom, searching for the elusive artifacts they came to find.

THE ACCIDENT

Approximately 45 minutes into the dive, the divers realized they had no idea where they were. The group surfaced and were surprised to find that they had nearly crossed the entire span of the river and had moved a substantial distance down current from the dive boat. Each of the divers shot a quick compass heading, and Colin submerged with the group to about 10 or 15 feet to begin the swim back to the boat.

**The barge operator had no clue that
divers were in his path until he heard the
thud of Colin's tank against the hull.**

even in the early morning hours when the divers boarded the dive boat for the short run downriver. Colin was diving with a group of eight divers and using a charter operation that frequently took guests to the site.

After arriving in the area of the dive, the captain pulled the boat alongside the shore, raised the dive flag and tied up to the bank. He gave a detailed briefing of the site, explaining to the divers that the river had a lot of large boat traffic and that it was necessary either to stay very close to the banks of the river or to stay on the bottom if venturing toward the center of the river.

Colin and some of his buddies were busy assembling gear and apparently missed this part of the briefing. The divers quickly suited up and entered the water in a large group. Colin and several other

As the dive group crossed the river, a barge rounded a nearby bend. The other divers reported that it was obvious under water that a boat was coming. With only a couple of feet of visibility, the divers became separated as they attempted to descend to the bottom and swim as quickly as possible from the channel of the river. Colin, however, did not submerge deep enough or fast enough.

No one in the group was towing a dive flag, and the barge operator had no clue that divers were in his path until he felt and heard the thud of Colin's tank against the hull.

Colin's body rolled to the surface in the wake of the barge. He sustained massive injuries, and although he was immediately recovered by the other divers in his group, it was too late. Colin was already dead.

Call **1-800-624-0686** or visit our
website: **www.travelbelize.org**




Catch
the adventure

BELIZE


Call 1-800-624-0686 or visit our
website: www.travelbelize.org

*Mother Nature's
best kept secret*





- Dive 3 Atolls and The Blue Hole
- Southern Barrier Reef
- Explore Mayan Ruins & Jungle
- Call NOW about our Treehouses and Reef & Rainforest Special!



hamanasi

DIVE & ADVENTURE RESORT, BELIZE
Hopkins, Southern Belize
501/520-7073, or toll free 1/877-552-DIVE (3483)
www.hamanasi.com/rsd • info@hamanasi.com



Turneffe Island Lodge

a private caribbean island

**800-874-0118
713-236-7739**
www.turneffelodge.com
info@turneffelodge.com

the caribbean's best kept
secret for diving, fishing
and beachcombing

SD04

BLACKBIRD

TURNEFFE ATOLL, BELIZE



Adventure Awaits...

- Private cabanas
- Dive and snorkel what RSD readers voted best overall destination
- 2003 Readers' Choice Award— Top 5 Wall Diving

YES WE DIVE THE BLUE HOLE!

call 1-888-271-3483 fax 305-969-7946
www.blackbirdresort.com Email: dive@blackbirdresort.com



BZTRAVEL SERVICES


DIVE AND TRAVEL EXPERTS TO BELIZE

1-800-382-7776 or 281-337-3758

BELIZE OCEAN • JUNGLE • RAINFOREST • WATERSPORT AND ADVENTURE TRAVEL


Discount Airfare and Hotel Packages • Customized Itineraries • Personal Service. Offering Mainland Hotels • Jungle Resorts & Lodges • Island Hotels & Resorts • All-Inclusive Dive Resorts • Condominiums • Villa Rentals • Auto Rental • Tours Mayan Ruins • River Trips • Fishing • Caving • Jungle Hiking • PADI/NAUI Scuba Courses • Snorkeling

Providing worldwide travel services to Belize
EMAIL FOR INSTANT QUOTE bzagent@bztravelservices.com
VISIT OUR WEB SITE: www.bztravelservices.com



RESORT

SAN PEDRO, BELIZE



Dive the Blue Hole, Turneffe Atoll,
snorkel Shark Ray Alley and more...
you can do it all from

Ramon's Village Resort

A PADI Gold Palm IDC Resort
Inquire for course schedule

Toll Free: 1-800-MAGIC 15
www.ramons.com
e-mail: info@ramons.com

©2003 Continental Airlines, Inc.

SHIPWRECKS. EXOTIC MARINE LIFE. SPECTACULAR CORAL REEFS. IT'S TO DIVE FOR.

Explore the islands of Micronesia and the Great Barrier Reef
with our complete diving packages.

Packages include such destinations as Palau, Truk, Yap, Pohnpei
and Cairns, Australia. For complete vacation packages,
call Continental Airlines Vacations at
1-800-634-5555 or visit us online
at coolvacations.com.

Continental Airlines
Vacations®

**Work Hard.
Fly Right.®**

ANALYSIS

The first mistake Colin's group made was failing to use a dive flag. Both local and federal laws require the use of the internationally recognized alpha flag and, in most cases, the familiar red and white diver-down flag when diving in navigable waters. When a flag is used in a restricted channel such as a river, in most jurisdictions, the divers are required to remain within 50 feet of the flag. Although a flag was prominently displayed on the dive boat, Colin was several hundred yards away from the flag at the time of the accident.

Even if one of the divers had been towing a dive flag, there would have been little the barge operator could have done to avoid the group, given the confining width of the channel and the size of the barge. Colin's group should have heeded the dive captain's advice and remained closer to the banks of the river. Once the mistake became obvious, Colin should have descended all the way to the bottom and waited for the boat to pass. **SD**

LESSONS FOR LIFE

- 1 NEVER DIVE IN RESTRICTED**, navigable waterways where large vessel traffic is likely.
- 2 ALWAYS USE A DIVE FLAG** and remain within the specified circle of protection provided by the flag.
- 3 TOW A SURFACE MARKER** with a dive flag attached anytime your dive plan requires you to leave the protected area of the surface flag.
- 4 DIVE BRIEFINGS** contain vital information. Stop what you're doing, listen carefully and heed the advice of the crew.

Paychecks in Paradise

Live the Dream.

Yes, you can make a
great living with the
right training
and a quality
placement program.



Placement Rate 100%* Worldwide - 1992 thru 2001

800-331-4255 **NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**
305-743-5929 **100% ALL COST FINANCING**
FAX 305-743-8168 **1%+ Prime - 30 Yr Terms - Approved applicants**
www.hallsdiving.com **APPROVED FOR VETERANS TRAINING**

at Faro Blanco Resort & Hall's Diving Center • 1994 Overseas Hwy • Marathon, FL Keys 33050
*100% 1992-93 FETIP; 1993-01 100% placed 6 out of 8 types of Instructor programs; 98% placed on an average of all Institute programs including
DiveMaster and Repair Tech. As a result of a vocational program review, locally collected vocational student follow-up data have been used to compile this
information. The methods used to collect this information are specified by state laws and rules. These data are available for inspection upon request.
Licensed by: Commission for Independent Education - Tallahassee, FL License # 94. Composite Photo: Underwater class on the Reef at the Institute.

micronesia top dive operators

the new way to see

TRUK LAGOON

charters starting from \$2,395

- Includes all meals, beverages and transfers
- Free Nitrox
- Unique outer reef, shark, and tech diving
- Nine luxury suites

1-800-757-5396

www.trukodyssey.com

info@trukodyssey.com



Odyssey
ADVENTURES

Welcome to Palau



palau pacific resort

like no other island dream!

PAN PACIFIC Hotels and Resorts

P.O. Box 308, Koror, Republic of Palau 96940

Tel (680) 488-2600 Fax (680) 488-1606 or 1601

E-mail palau@panpacific.com

Website www.palau.panpacific.com



A REFLECTION OF EXCELLENCE



SAM'S TOURS

P.O. Box 7076, Koror, Republic of Palau 96940

Tel: (680) 488-1062 Fax: (680) 488-5003

E-mail: samstours@palaunet.com

www.samstours.com

Only Trip-N-Tour Offers:

Best Deal Guarantee!

If you find a lower price we will:

1. Match the price,
2. Give you one free dive day,
3. And, as always, give you the best dive/travel service.

Deposit Refund Guarantee!

If, for any reason you need to cancel we will give a 100% refund until 31 days before departure! Liveboards are exempt.

TRIP-N-TOUR

The Dive Experts of the Pacific

1-800-348-0842

www.trip-n-tour.com

Call for our FREE 48 page dive brochure!

dive with mantas...

discover ancient culture.



For more information

www.visityap.com

or email

yvb@mail.fm.

The Land of



Stone Money

YAP

VISITORS
BUREAU

(691) 350-2298



"Where Adventure and Luxury Meet"

Come to Traders' Ridge, a new Boutique 4 Star dive retreat on Yap, Micronesia's most traditional island.

In addition to diving in one of the world's best dive locations, you'll enjoy the unique amenities of Yap's only luxury resort:

- An exclusive private spa
- The two best restaurants on Yap
- The Ethnic Art Institute of Micronesia
- Traditional dance performances in our outdoor amphitheater
- Yap's only swimming pool

More than just a dive vacation... well worth the trip!

For reservations and information:

Toll Free: 877-350-1300

resv@tradersridge.com

www.tradersridge.com





BIKE TO WORK WEEK

May 17th - 21st

Get out and ride. For yourself. For
your city. It's a win-win situation.
Learn more at bike-to-work.com

sponsored by



© Shimano American Corp. 2004

Gear



Lightweight water-resistant bags are one solution to wet towel woes.

SCUBALAB

Dry Bags & Boxes

Nine surefire ways to keep your stuff dry while you get wet. **BY JOHN BRUMM**

EVERYBODY eventually learns that when you're out on a dive boat, or even on a beach dive, while your immediate goal is to be wet, your long-term goal is to be dry again. And the best way to ensure that happens is to stow your after-dive street clothes, jackets, wallets and whatnots in a bag specifically designed to keep its contents dry in a wet environment.

THREE CATEGORIES, LOTS OF CHOICES

THE BAGS AND BOXES reviewed here fall into three basic categories: water-resistant bags that can be splashed, waterproof bags that can be splashed as well as temporarily dunked, and submersible bags and boxes that can actually be submerged while still keeping their contents dry.

To determine whether or not these bags and boxes could actually keep gear dry, we filled each with newspaper, sealed it according to the manufacturer's instructions and sprayed it aggressively with a garden hose. Then we dried the bag and looked inside to see if any of the newspaper got wet. If not, we resealed the bag and dunked it under water for 30 seconds, then dried and checked inside again.



AKONA AKB724
Dry Shoulder Bag



MARINE
SPORTS
Dry Pak



SEASOFT
DryBag



STAHL SAC
Bone Dry Storage Bag

THE RESULTS IN A NUTSHELL

EACH OF THESE BAGS AND BOXES performed as advertised. Water-resistant bags were able to easily withstand a garden hose attack, but succumbed to a dunking. Waterproof bags scoffed at the water blasts and even held their breath through a brief dunking. Submersible bags and boxes weren't fazed by either hose spray or a prolonged dunking, and we got the feeling no amount of time spent under water was going to change that.

THE BAGS

AKONA AKB724 Dry Shoulder Bag

The most stylish of the bags reviewed, the water-resistant AKB724 is the size of a large-volume, shoulder-slung, soft-sided briefcase. Constructed of polyurethane-double-coated 600-denier nylon, its main compartment secures with a double-pull zipper and can easily handle a jacket, extra clothes, camera and towel. An internal mesh sleeve is per-

fect for wallets and keys. This main compartment is protected from direct splash by an overflap that also has a zippered pocket.

The seams in this bag are thermal-welded for a waterproof bond, but the zippers are only water-resistant, and our spray test succeeded in getting a few drops inside the overflap pocket. However, the main compartment stayed dry, and was able to remain so even when lowered into water, just as long as the zipper itself wasn't submerged.

The bag comes with a nice shoulder strap plus a cross strap for additional stability. There's a pad where the bag rests on your hip that allows air to circulate.

MARINE SPORTS Dry Pak

Made of 10-ounce vinyl, the Dry Pak is a straightforward top-loading waterproof bag. It comes in three sizes. The model we looked at was the medium size. This bag is suited for stowing one thin jacket, an extra T-shirt or two and a towel, plus a camera and bagged lunch.

The opening is a tad small, which prohibits packing bulky gear. The bag uses a fold-and-roll closure, with a short overflap to help protect against seepage and a strip of one-inch webbing to aid in a tight roll. The bag doesn't have any handles, but once the clips are connected, you can grab onto that.

After putting four rolls in the opening and clipping it together, the Dry Pak successfully defended its name. It easily resisted water intrusion during both spray and dunk tests. The Dry Pak is available in yellow or clear.

SEASOFT SCUBA DryBag

This water-resistant duffel-style DryBag from Seasoft (formerly Watermark) is actually designed to keep your wet gear from making a mess in your dry trunk. The idea is to exit the dive site sopping wet, step onto the provided two- by three-foot mat (permanently attached to the bag, it rolls up when not in use), shed your gear and drop it directly into the bag.

Made of polymer-impregnated vinyl with RFW (radio frequency welded) seams, this glutinous bag—no pockets, just one large stowage compartment—can easily consume all your dripping dive gear and then neatly contain the mess. Its side-loading zippered opening is huge for easy access. It comes with double duffel handles and a removable shoulder strap. The bag's body is waterproof, but the zipper is vulnerable to spray.

STAHLSAC Bone Dry Storage Bag

This is one spiffy waterproof bag. Sporting welded seams throughout, the Bone Dry is

made of 840-denier nylon with a heavy polyurethane coating. It uses a fold-and-roll closure, but with a couple of important differences. One, the initial mating of the side-loading opening involves pressing together a rubber seal like a huge Ziploc, which makes the opening watertight even without folding. Two, once you fold the sealed opening a couple times, instead of connecting the buckle clips together, you clip them to buckles on each side of the bag, then connect additional cross straps for further security. The result is a very neat waterproof container. Neither direct spray nor prolonged dunk tests could coax any water inside this bag.

The Bone Dry isn't long enough to serve as a dry suit gear bag, but it provides plenty of room for an extra change of clothes, jacket and towel, plus a camera or two and assorted small stuff. Double duffel handles make it easy to carry around. Stahlsac's lifetime warranty covers just about everything, including damage caused by airline handlers.

TRIPLE-L Sahara

The Sahara is kind of a combo bag. On the one hand, it has two outside pockets that are only marginally water-resistant; on the other hand, it has a roomy main compartment that's not only waterproof but submersible.

This main compartment can easily accommodate a full set of dry clothes, a camera and a handful of smaller items. It has a watertight zipper with a rubber overseal and, in the event you'd want to take the bag under water, there's an oral inflator tube to compensate for compression at depth. The rest of the bag is not suited for submersible use, however.

There are external compression straps so you can cinch down on a half-load, and the backpack is nicely contoured and padded. The bag also has straps for beach towels.

USIA Multi-Purpose Waterproof Bag

Tested to 100 feet, this tough little monkey is made of 400-denier polyurethane-coated pack



XS SCUBA
Sedona Large Dry Duffel



TRIPLE-L
Sahara



USIA Multi-Purpose
Waterproof Bag

Digital, Film or Video

Learn from the Pros with Aggressor

Live-aboard Photo Workshops



Aggressor Fleet offers a variety of underwater photo workshops for the beginner and advanced shooter. Don't

own a camera? Rent one on the boat. Take your pick: digital, film or video. Our guest photo pros will teach you tips and techniques that will have you shooting award-winning images in no time!



AGGRESSOR PHOTO WORKSHOPS

Mesgleski & Haber, Still & Video

Belize: June 12-19, 2004

Galapagos: Aug. 11-18, 2005



Rod Klein, Digital

Cayman: Aug. 21-28, 2004

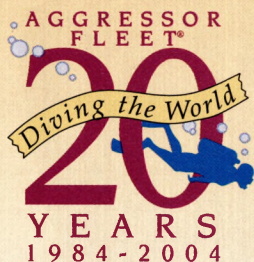
Stan Waterman,* Video

Turks & Caicos: Oct. 23-30, 2004

Mauricio Handler, Housed Cameras

Truk Lagoon: Nov. 21-28, 2004

For more dates and details, see our Workshop Itinerary on aggressor.com.



800-348-2628
www.aggressor.com

Bay Islands • Belize • Caymans • Cocos Island
• Fiji • Galapagos • Kona, Hawaii • Palau •
Tahiti • Truk, Micronesia • Turks & Caicos

Aggressor Fleet is a franchise company.

*Waterman's charter does not include a formal course.

Photos by Rod Klein and Wayne Hasson.

DRY BAGS & BOXES

cloth. It uses a dry suit-style zipper and double heat-taped seams to withstand the pressures of depth. An oral inflator allows you to inflate the bag to compensate for compression. Needless to say, our spray and dunk tests had no effect whatsoever on this rugged bag.

Although it was originally designed for the military to stow a gas mask, the bag can be used to carry small, valuable items that need to stay dry and protected. The heavy-duty zipper is long, allowing for easy loading and unloading. The bag can be threaded onto a belt, and there are two web loops that can be used as tie-down points. A 1,000-denier cordura liner bag is included.

XS SCUBA Sedona Large Dry Duffel

This fold-and-roll duffel-style bag is perfect in design and dimensions to handle the specialized gear required for dry suit diving. A fabric dry suit, a set of woolies, an extra T-shirt and shorts, socks, a pair of deck shoes, towels and smaller items, like wallets, all fit into the Sedona with room to spare.

Made of a 600-denier nylon with a light coating of polyurethane on the



OTTER PRODUCTS
6500 Series Dry Box

outside and a double coating on the inside, Sedona has RF-welded seams and its large side-loading opening has double stiffener strips that create a tight roll without any bunching in the middle. Like Stahlsac's Bone Dry, the Sedona's security buckles clip to the ends of the bag instead of each other. Plus, there are cross straps to help secure the folded opening and snug up the load.

The bag provides double duffel straps with a Velcro wrap, plus there are attachment points for an optional shoulder strap. A small external pocket on the outside of the bag has an additional zippered sleeve, but they both got damp from direct spray, although the main compartment remained totally dry.

THE BOXES OTTER PRODUCTS 6500 Series Dry Box

When it comes to protecting valuable gear, nothing beats the security of a hard case.

Otter makes a full line of hard cases; the 6500 is its largest. Made of fiberglass-reinforced ABS plastic, it's equipped with compound latches and a rod hinge that runs almost the entire length of the box. The lid is fitted with a silicone gasket for a water-tight seal. There's a pressure




PELICAN PRODUCTS
1500 Protector Case


relief valve that can be totally unscrewed, which we found kind of troubling. However, the box is truly watertight; neither spray nor dunk tests could produce any moisture inside.

The test case came equipped with a detachable shoulder strap. We really liked this option. The case has a fold-down carry handle, and molded eyes are provided for a padlock. The case includes foam that can be custom cut to fit your valuables. All Otter boxes are guaranteed for life to be watertight and crushproof.

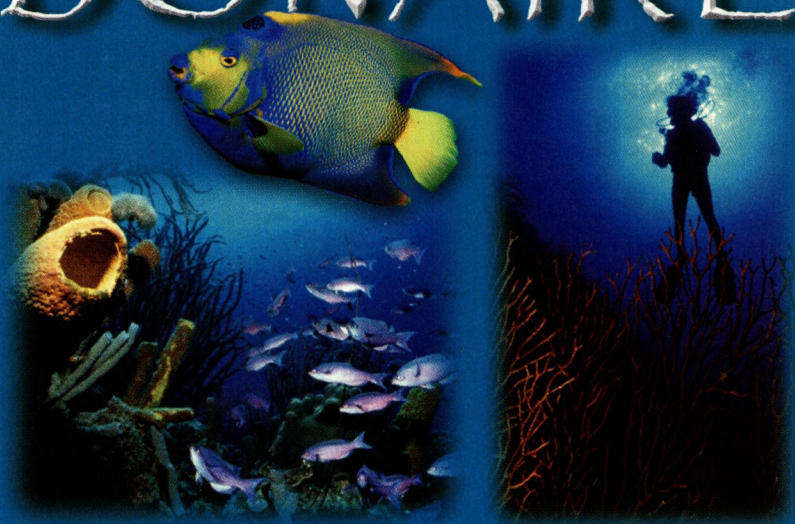
PELICAN PRODUCTS **1500 Protector Case**

Considered the last word in unbreakable, waterproof hard cases, the Pelican 1500 Protector is one of a family of cases available in about 20 different sizes, all designed to keep valuable gear dry and in one piece. This virtually indestructible case is made of a high-impact structural copolymer polypropylene. It uses a quarter-inch neoprene O-ring for water-tightness (it floats in salt water with a 35-pound load), heavy-duty hinges, special ABS latches, molded padlock eyes for security and a purge valve that automatically equalizes the interior compartment after changes in atmospheric pressure. Needless to say, nothing we did to this box allowed any water on the inside.

The 1500 comes with foam or adjustable padded dividers to enable you to customize the box to your personal gear while protecting it all against vibration or shock. Like all Pelican hard cases, the 1500 is covered by an unconditional lifetime guarantee against breakage or defects. 

GET MORE  For more information about these bags and boxes, turn to In Depth, page 105, section 4.

BONAIRE



Divers' Paradise

DIVI FLAMINGO BEACH RESORT



Bonaire's Property of the Year

Beachside resort features Divi Dive Bonaire, PADI Gold Palm dive operation, with 24 hour access to tanks, two pools, fitness center, two restaurants, two bars & Bonaire's "Barefoot Casino".
Call: 800-801-5550 • Fax: 919-419-2079
Email: dividive@diviresorts.com

www.diviresorts.com

SAND DOLLAR CONDOMINIUM RESORT



For a change of scenery; for a change of pace

Ocean-front resort and PADI dive facility offering on-property shore diving on the Caribbean's #1 reef, boat diving, Nitrox, instruction, photo/video services & eco-adventures.
Reservations: 1-800-288-4773 • Tel: 954-453-5025
Email: Usreservations@sanddollarbonaire.com

www.sanddollarbonaire.com

CAPTAIN DON'S HABITAT



The Home of Diving Freedom

with the ease of live-aboard diving and the convenience of resort living 24 hours a day. Dive packages from \$364.00. For reservations call 800-327-6709 Fax: 305-438-4220
Email: rsdhub@maduro.com

www.HabitatDiveResorts.com

**American Airlines/American Eagle,
Air Jamaica, BonairExel and DCA
serve Bonaire.**



**Top Caribbean
Dive Destination**

www.InfoBonaire.com ■ ■ ■ 1-800-BONAIRE

DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS

Would you like information from one of our advertisers? Below is a listing of each advertiser in this issue.
Call these advertisers directly or check out their web sites.

All-Inclusives

Iberostar Hotels & Resorts > 1-888-923-2722
www.iberostar.com

Australia

Queensland Tourism > 1-800-392-0318
www.australia.com/dive

Bahamas

Bahamas Dive Association > 1-800-866-DIVE
www.bahamasdiving.com
Bimini Undersea Adventures > 1-800-348-4644
www.biminiiundersea.com
Hawk's Nest Resort > 1-800-688-4752
www.hawks-nest.com
Nekton Diving Cruises > 1-800-899-6753
www.nektoncruises.com
Small Hope Bay Lodge > 1-800-223-6961
www.SmallHope.com
Stella Maris Bahamas > 1-800-426-0466
www.stellamarisresort.com
Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas > 1-800-646-3333
www.stuartcove.com/rsd

Bay Islands/Honduras

Anthony's Key Resort > 1-800-227-3483
www.anthonyskey.com
Roatan Charter > 1-800-282-8932 www.roatan.com

Belize

AquaMarina Suites > 1-800-641-2994
www.aquamarinahotels.com
Bay Adventures > 1-888-599-DIVE
www.bayadventures.com
Belize Tourism Board > 1-800-227-3483
www.travelbelize.org
Blackbird Caye Resort > 1-888-271-DIVE (3483)
www.blackbirdresort.com
BZ Travel Services > 1-800-382-7776
www.bztravelservices.com
Caradonna Caribbean Tours > 1-800-328-2288
www.caradonna.com
Hamanasi Dive & Adventure Resort > 1-877-552-DIVE (3483)
www.hamanasi.com
Ramon's Village > 1-800-624-4215 www.ramons.com
Turneffe Island Lodge > 1-800-874-0118
www.turneffelodge.com

Bonaire

Belmar Oceanfront Apartments > 1-888-655-0605
www.belmar-bonaire.com
Bonaire Dive Festival > 1-800-BONAIRE
www.bonairedivefestival.com
Buddy Dive Resort > 1-866-GO-BUDDY
www.buddydive.com
Captain Don's Habitat > 1-800-327-6709
www.habitatdiversports.com
Caradonna Caribbean Tours > 1-800-328-2288
www.caradonna.com
Dive Resorts > 1-800-367-3484
www.diveresorts.com
Harbour Village Resort/Portofino Hotel > 1-800-424-0004
www.harbourvillage.com
Plaza Resort Bonaire > 1-800-766-6016
www.plazaresortbonaire.com
Port Bonaire/Toucan Diving > 1-800-766-6016
www.plazavillas.com
Sand Dollar Condominium Resort > 1-800-288-4773
www.sanddollarbonaire.com
Tourism Corporation Bonaire > 1-800-BONAIRE
www.infobonaire.com

Cayman Islands

Carib Sands > 1-866-843-2722
www.866thebrac.com
Cayman Airways > 1-800-4CAYMAN
www.caymanairways.com
Cayman Diving Lodge > 1-800-TLC-DIVE
www.dive lodge.com
Cayman Islands Dept. of Tourism > 1-877-4-CAYMAN
www.divecayman.ky
Dive Tech at Cobalt Coast > 1-866-622-9626
www.divetech.com

Divi Tiara Beach Resort > 1-800-661-3483
www.diviresorts.com
Don Foster's Dive Cayman > 1-800-83DIVER
www.donfosters.com
Eden Rock Diving Center > 1-345-949-7243
www.donfosters.com
Little Cayman Beach Resort/Reef Divers > 1-800-654-3130
www.reefseas.com
Ocean Frontiers > 1-888-232-0541
www.oceanfrontiers.com/rodale
Paradise Villas/Divers > 1-877-322-9626
www.paradisevillas.com
Red Sail Sports > 1-877-RED-SAIL
www.redsailcayman.com
Reef Divers > 1-888-716-7400
www.reefseas.com
Sam McCoy's > 1-800-626-0496
www.mccoylodges.com.ky
Seaview Hotel & Dive Resort > 1-866-945-0558
www.seaviewdivers.com
Southern Cross Club > 1-800-899-2582
www.southerncrossclub.com

Cozumel/Mexico

Bay Adventures > 1-888-599-DIVE
www.bayadventures.com
Caradonna Caribbean Tours > 1-800-328-2288
www.caradonna.com
Casa del Mar > 011-52-987-872-1900
www.casadelmarcozumel.com
Dive Paradise/Aqua Dreams Travel >
1-888-322-DIVE, www.aquadreams.com
Diving Adventures > 1-800-897-5553
www.diving-adventures.com
El Cid, La Ceiba/Dive with Martin > 1-800-897-5553
www.elcid.com www.divewithmartin.com
Plaza Las Glorias/Dive Paradise/Bay Adventures >
1-888-599-DIVE www.bayadventures.com
Presidente Inter-Continental > 1-800-327-0200
www.cozumel.intercontinental.com
Reef Club Cozumel > 1-888-773-4349
www.reefclubcozumel.com
Scuba Club Cozumel > 1-800-847-5708
www.scubaclubcozumel.com

Curaçao

Habitat Curaçao > 1-800-327-6709
www.habitatcuracao.com

Dominica

Castle Comfort Lodge/Dive Dominica > 1-888-414-7626
www.castlecomfortdive.com
Fort Young Hotel > 1-866-FY-YOUNG (389-6864)
www.fortyounghotel.com
National Development Corporation of Dominica >
1-888-645-5637 www.dominica.dm
Nature Island Dive > 1-767-449-8181
www.natureislanddive.com
Dominica Marine Reserve >
www.dominicamarinereserves.com

Florida & Florida Keys

The Florida Keys and Key West > 1-800-FLA-KEYS
www.fl-a-keys.com/diving

Micronesia

Continental Airline Vacations > 1-800-634-5555
www.covacations.com
Odyssey > 1-800-757-5396 www.trukodysey.com
Palau Pacific Resort > 011-680-488-2600
www.panpacific.com
Sam's Dive Tours > 011-680-488-1062 www.samstours.com
Traders' Ridge > 1-877-657-4695
www.tradersridge.com
Trip N' Tour > 1-800-348-0842 www.trip-n-tour.com
Yap Visitors Bureau > 011-691-350-2298 www.visitap.com

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico Tourism > 1-866-2GOTOPR
www.GoToPuertoRico.com

St. Vincent & The Grenadines

St. Vincent & The Grenadines Tourism > 1-800-729-1726
www.svgtourism.com

Dive Equipment

Diving Unlimited International > 1-800-325-8439
www.dui-online.com
Henderson Aquatics > 1-856-825-4771
www.hendersonusa.com
Ikelite > 1-317-923-4523
www.ikelite.com
J.W. Fishers Mfg. > 1-800-822-4744 www.jwfishers.com
Light & Motion > 1-831-645-1525
www.lmionline.com
Princeton Tec > 1-800-257-9080
www.princtontec.com
Sherwood Scuba > 1-949-581-8069
www.sherwoodscuba.com
Submersible Systems/Spare Air > 1-800-648-3483
www.spareair.com
TUSA > 1-800-482-2282 www.tusa.com

Dive Training/Safety

Divers Alert Network > 1-877-595-0625
www.diversalertnetwork.org
Divers Equipment Protection Program > 1-888-678-4096
www.equipmentprotection.com
Hall's Diving Center > 1-866-331-4255
www.hallsdiving.com
Ocean Corporation > 1-800-321-0298 www.oceancorp.com
Pro Dive > 1-800-PRO-DIVE www.prodiveusa.com

Dive Travel Specialists

Bay Adventures > 1-888-599-DIVE
www.bayadventures.com
BZ Travel Services > 1-800-382-7776
www.bztravelservices.com
Caradonna Caribbean Tours > 1-800-328-2288
www.caradonna.com
Continental Airlines Vacations > 1-800-829-7777
www.covacations.com
Roatan Charter > 1-800-282-8932 www.roatan.com
Uncommon Adventures > 1-888-390-9675
www.uncommonadventures.com

Live-Aboards

Aggressor Fleet > 1-800-348-2628 www.aggressor.com
Aqua Cat > 1-888-327-9600 www.aquacatcruises.com
Bilikiki Cruises > 1-800-663-5363 www.bilikiki.com
Blackbeard's Cruises > 1-800-327-9600
www.blackbeard-cruises.com
Explorer Ventures > 1-800-322-3577
www.explorerventures.com
Mike Ball Dive Expeditions > 1-888-MIKE BALL
www.mikeball.com
Nekton Diving Cruises > 1-800-899-6753
www.nektoncruises.com
Odyssey > 1-800-757-5396 www.trukodysey.com
Peter Hughes Diving > 1-800-9-DANCER
www.peterhughes.com
Trimarine/Cuan Law > 1-800-648-3393
www.galapagosdiving.com

Apparel

International Cotton > 1-800-990-TEES
www.ScubaShirtClub.com

Miscellaneous

ML Dalton Research > 214-691-4925
www.mldaltonresearch.com

Photography

Pioneer Research > 1-856-866-9191
www.sealife-cameras.com
Sea & Sea > 1-800-732-7977 www.seaandsea.com
Underwater Photo Tech > 1-603-432-1997
www.uwphoto.com

Watches

Rolex Watch USA > 1-800-36-ROLEX www.rolex.com

Note: Subject to change

SCUBALAB REVIEW

Bailout Bottles

Extra air for when there's trouble down there. **BY JOHN BRUMM**

MOST DIVERS giant stride into the water armed with either a safe-second octopus rig or some sort of BC-integrated alternate air source as part of their gear inventory. Both of these backup breathers are essential in the event your primary second stage malfunctions or your buddy needs to share your air supply. But neither is going to be much help if you suddenly find yourself on the bottom of the ocean strapped to an empty cylinder.

Enter the bailout bottle, a compact, easy-to-use emergency air supply completely independent of your primary tank and regulator. It's designed to do one thing and one thing only—give you a few extra breaths to get to the surface when all else fails.

Unlike pony bottle systems, which are much larger and use their own conventional regulator rigs, a bailout bottle is small and simple, consisting of an integrated regulator that screws directly onto a low-volume 3,000 psi bottle. It stows in its own holster that you can attach to a BC strap or anywhere that's handy. It's always "on," so to use it, you simply yank it from its holster, stick it in your mouth, and start kicking like crazy for blue skies.

Since their introduction over two decades ago, bailout bottles have been the subject of much debate. Based on air consumption calculations, opponents argue that the typical bailout bottle is simply too small to get a panicked diver safely to the surface from the deepest recreational depths. But proponents like the insurance of having a completely separate air supply and argue that having even a few extra breaths at your disposal sure beats sucking seawater.

So what can these bailout bottles really do for you in an out-of-air situation? To find out, we rounded up three models—two tried-and-true, one relatively new—and went diving. Making 10 dives over the course of three nonconsecutive days, we took each bottle to 132 feet. Upon exhalation, we deployed the bailout bottle and tried to make it to the surface. If a bottle couldn't get us to the surface, we tried progressively shallower depths until it could.

While we strived to simulate a semi-panicked diver in an out-of-air situation, our ascents never exceeded the maximum ascent rates dictated by our dive computers. Plus, we knew that if we sucked the bottles dry, we still had our primary air supply to fall back on, so we may have lacked the same motivation to get to the surface that would grip divers in authentic out-of-air emergencies. So while our findings are not conclusive, we hope this will shed some light on what these bottles can do in a pinch.

SUBMERSIBLE
SYSTEMS
Spare Air 300



SUBMERSIBLE SYSTEMS
Spare Air 170

SUBMERSIBLE SYSTEMS Spare Air 300

When most divers think of a bailout bottle, it's the Spare Air that pops to mind. Measuring just over 13 inches tall with a two-and-a-quarter-inch-diameter, three-cubic-foot bottle, Spare Air's Model 300 weighs just over two pounds when full and stows quite compactly in

a custom holster that can easily be mounted on your BC cummerbund or tank strap.

The Spare Air uses a balanced, single-stage, integrated regulator that screws directly onto the bottle. Work of breathing is not as good as a traditional regulator, but the compact bottle and the holster system make it easy to deploy one-handed. Once the rig is in your mouth,

Papua New Guinea

Have you ever dived a Last Frontier?



Paradise Sport

What are you waiting for? Discover the destination so many divers have claimed is the best diving in the world. While you follow your own personal journey experience the world in luxurious 5-star comfort and privacy.

- Unlimited Nitrox and Solo diving
- Fascinating cultural experiences
- Excellent meals and onboard services
- Professional & experienced staff
- Choice of 7- & 10-day itineraries in 3 different locations



Phone: +61 7 4053 0500
Fax: +61 7 4031 5470

Win the Trip of a Lifetime! Check out our website for more details.

usa@mikeball.com www.mikeball.com 1.800.MIKE.BALL

Jack Fisher,
President

"Fishers have the most powerful and ruggedly constructed underwater metal detectors available"

Diver Mag 1
Diver held mag
\$6,995

Pulse 8X
Only **\$1,595**

Fishers Pulse 6X and 8X detectors detect all metals, on land and underwater. Their Diver Mag 1 is a super sensitive detector for iron/steel targets and works equally well above and below water. All are built for commercial operations and have both audio and visual readouts.

Interchangeable coils are available for the Pulse 6X and 8X.

MC-1
Mini Camera
\$1,195

Proton 4
Marine Magnetometer
\$9,995

SeaLion
ROVs from
\$19,995

Pulse 12
Boat-towed Metal Detector
\$7,995

SSS-100/600K
Side Scan Sonar
from **\$19,995**

Call for a free catalog or to order our demonstration video.

JW Fishers Mfg Inc, 1953 County St., E. Taunton, MA 02718 USA • (800)822-4744
• Tel. (508)822-7330 • FAX: (508)880-8949 • email: jwfishers@aol.com • www.jwfishers.com

BAILOUT BOTTLES

you don't need to hold onto the bottle. The Spare Air 300 was able to easily get our test divers from 70 feet to the surface with about half a dozen additional surface breaths to spare.

Spare Air's Model 300 fills off your primary cylinder via a yoke adapter. There's also a fitting that allows it to be filled directly from a fill station or compressor. A built-in pressure indicator nub protrudes when the bottle is full, and sits flush when the bottle is less than half full. A dial pressure gauge is available as an option.

The Spare Air 300 sells for \$299. Price includes a three-cubic-foot bottle with single-stage reg, a built-in pressure indicator, a yoke-style adapter for filling off a scuba tank, a storage holster and safety lanyard. The Model 300 is also available in a nitrox version. Spare Air has a one-year warranty.

SUBMERSIBLE SYSTEMS

Spare Air 170

This is the original bailout bottle, introduced back in 1979. It's the same as the Model 300 except for its smaller package. Standing less than nine inches tall with a two-and-a-quarter-inch-diameter, 1.7-cubic-foot bottle, the 170 weighs only 1.5 pounds when full and easily stows just about anywhere you can attach its holster. Because of its super-compact size, the Model 170 is a favorite among traveling divers who prefer to dive with a little added insurance.

The Spare Air 170 was able to easily get test divers from a depth of 45 feet to the surface with about half a dozen surface breaths to spare. It sells for \$299 and comes with a 1.7-cubic-foot bottle with single-stage reg, a built-in pressure indicator, an adapter for filling off a scuba tank, a storage holster, a safety lanyard and a one-year warranty. A dial gauge pressure indicator is optional.

H2ODYSSEY Extra Air Source

The six-cubic-foot EAS was the only bailout bottle we tested that was able to get us from 132 feet (maximum recommended recreational diving depth) to the surface, and it did so with more than a dozen additional surface breaths to spare. Of course, standing over 13 inches tall with a three-inch-diameter cylinder that weighs five pounds when full, it's also the largest bailout bottle



H2ODYSSEY
Extra Air Source

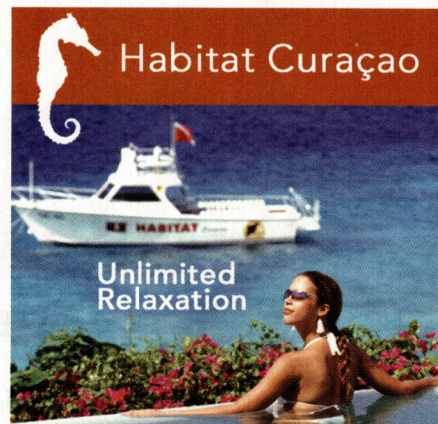
we tested, and probably about as big as you'd want to carry around without moving into pony bottle territory.

What makes the EAS unique is its regulator system, which uses a conventional second stage connected to a balanced piston first stage via a horizontal/vertical swivel. The swivel enables you to maintain a comfortable breathing position regardless of the angle of the bottle. The EAS delivers the kind of easy breathing performance you'd expect from your primary second stage. This performance no doubt contributed to the system's air efficiency on our ascents.

When full, the EAS is just slightly negative, so it hangs out of the way and is surprisingly easy to use with no hands. Indeed, there were times we forgot we were breathing off a bailout bottle and not our primary reg. However, because of the swivel, sometimes you need to hold the bottle with one hand and steady the second stage with the other before inserting it into your mouth. Also, the bottle gets buoyant as it nears empty. At this point, you need to hold onto the bottle; otherwise, the swivel allows the bottle to float up in front of your face.

The EAS fills directly off your primary cylinder via a yoke-style adapter. There's also a fitting that allows it to be filled directly from a fill station or compressor. The EAS sells for \$299, which includes the six-cubic-foot bottle with first and second stages plus connecting swivel. Options include the adapter for filling off a scuba tank, a holster and a dial pressure gauge. It has a two-year warranty. **SD**

GET MORE > For more Info:
Submersible
Systems, www.submersiblesystems.com; H2Odissey, www.h2odyssey.com.



Habitat Curaçao

Unlimited
Relaxation

Rodale's Readers Rate
CURAÇAO TOP 3
for Shore Diving



Unlimited 24/7
Shore Diving

Come and find out why divers
return again and again
to Habitat Curaçao resort

7 Nights Room & Dive
from just \$399

1800 327 6709
www.HabitatCuracao.com
or hc@maduro.com

Pristine reefs
82 degree water
100ft visibility

Boat dives to over 30 locations

PADI 5 Star IDC Center

Luxury Spa Services

Fantastic island activities
and low cost airfare

CURACAO
real. different.



OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS

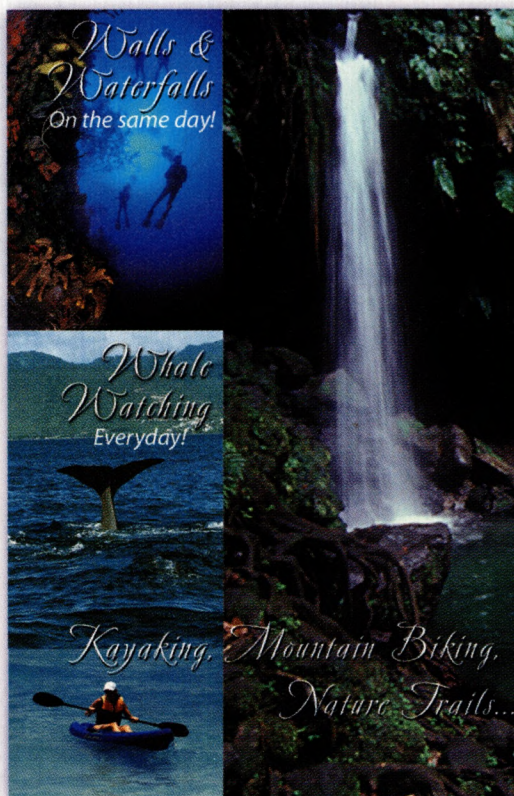
Q: Should I be concerned about using over-the-counter antihistamines and decongestants when diving?

A: No drug is completely safe. Drugs are chemicals and, by design, alter body functions through their therapeutic action. Moreover, they may have undesirable effects that vary by individual or environment. Most drugs have never been specifically tested in a diving or hyperbaric environment, but by understanding their usual actions and side effects it may be possible to predict what might happen when divers use them. So, research your medications. Learn their active ingredients. Warnings and directions provided by the manufacturer may alert you to the potential for a problem.

Antihistamines are most often used to provide symptomatic relief of allergies, colds and motion sickness. They may have side effects including dryness of the mouth, nose and throat, and blurred vision. A side effect of many antihistamines is drowsiness, which could exacerbate nitrogen narcosis and impair a diver's ability to think clearly and react appropriately as needed. If an antihistamine is used by a diver, it should ideally be one of the less sedating type.

Decongestants cause narrowing of the blood vessels, which can relieve congestion by reducing swelling of the nasal mucosa. Decongestants may cause mild CNS stimulation and may have side effects such as nervousness, excitability, restlessness, dizziness, weakness, and a forceful or rapid heartbeat. These drugs can cause blood pressure to increase, particularly in people with hypertension. Medications known to stimulate the CNS may have a significant or undesirable effect on a diver. Package precautions or warnings may advise against use by individuals suffering from diabetes, asthma or cardiovascular disease.

DAN Dive Safety and Medical Information Line, (919) 684-2948; **DAN 24-Hour Diving Emergency Hotline**, (919) 684-4DAN (collect); or (919) 684-8111; **web:** www.DiversAlertNetwork.org.



Fort Young Hotel
Toll Free: 1 (866) 389-6864
Tel: (767) 448-5000
Fax: (767) 448-5006
fortyoung@cwdom.dm
www.fortyounghotel.com

Nature Island Dive
Tel: (767) 449-8181
Fax: (767) 449-8182
natureislanddive@cwdom.dm
www.natureislanddive.com

**Dive Dominica/
Castle Comfort Lodge**
Toll Free: 1 (888) 414-7626
Tel: (767) 448-2188
Fax: (767) 448-6088
dive@cwdom.dm
www.castlecomfortdivelodge.com

**Anchorage Hotel
& Dive Center**
Tel: (767) 448-2639
Fax: (767) 440-2639
anchoragedive@cwdom.dm

**Soufriere Scott's Head
Marine Reserve**
www.avirtualdominica.com/ssmr/
www.dominicamarinereserves.com

For your next vacation...

...it's the Natural Choice

DOMINICA
THE NATURE ISLAND OF THE CARIBBEAN

Dominica Tourist Office • 888-645-5637 • www.dominica.dm • dominicany@msn.com

Training



INSTRUCTION

Open-Water Ascents

Ascending in open water without a line can be tricky.
Practice pinpoint buoyancy to get it right.

Get to the surface safely when it's just you in the deep blue. **BY JOHN FRANCIS**

UH-OH. You're looking at something new in your experience: a 95-foot ascent with no line to hang on to or wall to look at, just water all around. How are you going to do this?

You've been following a zigzag corridor through the crazy sideways world of the *HMCS Yukon*, the 366-foot-long

destroyer escort that has become such a popular dive attraction near San Diego. You and your buddy had planned an exit point next to one of the mooring lines attached to the ship so you could use it to control your ascent, but the line's not there. Is it to the left or right? You're not sure. And how far away? Maybe too far, because your buddy is pointing to his pressure gauge with some urgency. There's no time to look for the line. You've got to start up now.

A controlled, no-line ascent from depth in open water is a challenge, but it's not impossible—if you keep your head and take it step by step.

(STEP ONE)

Do Nothing

WHAT'S FIRST? Assuming you're not

critically short on air, stop, take a deep breath or two, and collect your wits. You'll have enough breathing gas if you've planned the dive and decided in advance to turn back when the first diver reaches a minimum psi.

What's that minimum? There are several rules of thumb. Dan Patterson, a technical diving instructor at Forty Fathom Grotto in Ocala, Fla., allows 10 psi for every foot of depth down to 130 feet, assuming no decompression stops. That would mean turning a dive to the *Yukon's* maximum depth of 100 feet at 1,000 psi. Others suggest 1,000 psi for any dive to 100 feet or more.

(STEP TWO)

Communicate

YOU AND YOUR BUDDIES need to

communicate before you act. You should have clarified in advance what your signals mean. For example, the thumbs-up sign is ambiguous. Does it mean, "get ready to ascend" or "start up right now"? Gary Billingsley, a PADI master instructor who teaches tech and recreational diving on the *Yukon*, signals "go to the ascent line" by putting one fist above the other, as if climbing a rope. The thumbs-up he reserves for the command to actually start ascending.

"Once you communicate to your teammate that it's time to ascend, communicate why," says Patterson. "Point to your computer or your pressure gauge so he knows why you've turned the dive." And your signal should be acknowledged with the same signal returned, not an OK sign, so you know your buddy has actually understood.

AFRICA • FIJI • BORNEO • MALDIVES

Uncommon Adventures
Dive & Adventure Travel Inc.
Experts in Travel to Remote Corners Of the World

- Custom itineraries for individuals and groups
- Specializing in the worlds most exotic destinations
- Worldwide land based and live-aboard dive adventures
- Worldwide wildlife, eco and cultural expeditions

TANZANIA SAFARI & DIVING
\$4980*
19 days - all air, meals & diving
BEST Beef & Reef on the planet!!

FIJI DIGITAL SHOOTOUT
\$2399*
May 6-15. 7 night accommodations, air, diving, meals and digital seminars with professional photographers.

INDONESIA, 'BALI' & WAKATOBI
\$3660*
16 days, Bali, river rafting and unbelievable reef of Wakatobi.

www.uncommonadventures.com
888-390-9675
*all pricing is per person based on double occupancy. GST 2065339-40

TAHITI • SOLOMONS • MICRONESIA •

THAILAND • COSTA RICA • BELIZE • SEYCHELLES • INDONESIA • PAPUA NEW GUINEA • GALAPAGOS • BALI •

HAVE YOU EVER
said g'day underwater?

Come dive Australia's Great Barrier Reef for **8 days/5 nights from \$1862**. Package includes roundtrip airfares from Los Angeles on Qantas Airways, 3 day/2 night Reef trip on a liveaboard dive boat, 11 dives, gear package, dive insurance, onboard meals, and 3 nights hotel in Cairns. For details on this or other great dive packages, visit www.australia.com/dive or call 800 392-0318.

Australia.com

Price is per person based on double occupancy for Mon.-Wed. Economy Class departures from Los Angeles. Add-on fares available from other cities. Travel 4/26-6/17 or 7/19-8/26/04. Pricing available for other dates. Seats are limited and may not be available on every flight. Hotel and live-aboard dive boat subject to availability. US/foreign taxes of approximately \$137, including September 11th Security Fee, are additional. Cancellation penalties and other restrictions apply.

(STEP THREE)

Get Neutral

NEUTRAL BUOYANCY is going to be a moving target as you ascend, so get it squarely in your sights now. At the same time, you should put away your toys so your hands are free to manage your BC controls and your gauges. Cameras, lights and other stuff not needed now should be clipped off or put into a pocket.

(STEP FOUR)

Leave the Bottom

YOU AND YOUR BUDDY should make eye contact, exchange the OK and thumbs-up signs, take inflate/deflate control in hand and initiate the ascent. Eye contact throughout the ascent will help you stay together and in control.

If you're exactly neutral, you'll be able to lift off the bottom just by taking a deep breath. But if that doesn't do it, should you put air in your BC? Instructors who teach deep recreational diving differ on that. Many, like Bob Snyder—who leads divers to the *Spiegel Grove* off Key Largo, Fla.—prefer you to be slightly negative and fin a little to ascend. "Do not hit that power inflate button," says Snyder. "I would rather see you do a little bit of a leg kick than to use buoyancy to bring you up."

He's aware, of course, that a little positive buoyancy can easily become too much. But Patterson and a few others worry that finning upward means unnecessary exertion and carbon dioxide production, and therefore more risk of narcosis and DCS. He likes divers to be "positively neutral," as he calls it, and

suggests a tap on the power inflate is fine to start the ascent. "I emphasize in my courses not to be scared to use the BC to do its job. And that's to help the diver initiate his ascent."

Actually, these instructors differ only a little. All of them agree you should be as close to neutral as you can be throughout the ascent. "Use a little common sense," says Billingsley. "If you're swimming up and you're not going anywhere, just tap the BC a couple of times until you get going. And look up. Your body tends to follow your eyes."

(STEP FIVE)

Vent Air While You Ascend

ONCE YOU'RE MOVING upward, immediately begin venting a little air

110 foot wall a snorkel away from the bar

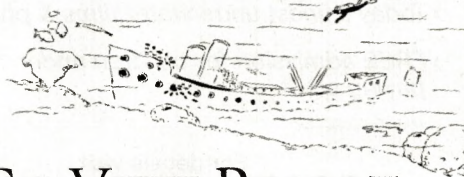


Ocean front everything! The ONLY 24 hour a day unlimited barrier reef, wall, and wreck diving right from the beach. All meals and boat diving included.

1-800-282-8932

www.cocoviewresort.com/11

e-mail: ccv11@roatan.com



CoCo VIEW RESORT
Roatan, Honduras Bay Islands

BEST VALUE IN THE CARIBBEAN ALL-INCLUSIVE SPECIAL



**Hotel Cozumel & Resort
and DIVE PARADISE \$799**

- 7 nights hotel
- 5 morning 2-tank boat dives
- **4 FREE** single-tank afternoon boat dives with Dive Paradise
- **ALL MEALS AND UNLIMITED BAR!**



Bay Adventures
Dive Adventures and Island Vacations

TOLL FREE 1-888-599-3483

INFO@BAYADVENTURES.COM
WWW.BAYADVENTURES.COM

Call for discount airfare and more info!
Per person dbl. occ. valid 4/21-12/23/04. Holiday restrictions apply.
Hotel Cozumel, formerly known as Hotel Brisas/Magic Sunset.

from your BC, because the air bubble in your BC will immediately begin growing and adding buoyancy. If you're overweighted, the BC bubble will be bigger, and your buoyancy will increase faster. Cold water complicates the problem, because a wetsuit or dry suit also expands, like another bubble.

Without a mooring line in front of you to judge your upward speed, it will be very difficult to keep your rate down to 30 feet per minute, and if you wait to vent air until you realize you are going too fast, you've waited too long. At that point you're likely to vent too much air, then stop and begin sinking, then add too much air to start up again.

"It's kind of like driving a rear-wheel-drive car on ice," says Patterson. "You overcompensate and it gets worse and worse." Try to anticipate the buoy-

ancy growth and stay ahead of it. One way to do that: "Hold the inflate/deflate all the way up," says Snyder. "A lot of divers forget and hold it so low that all the air can't come out."

Your goal is an ascent rate of 30 feet per minute. Ascent rate monitors on many computers can help, though some are slow to react, and audible alarms only tell you when you're already too fast. With a digital depth gauge, the numbers should roll over once every two seconds. Count between feet, as: 98—one thousand one, one thousand two—97—one thousand one, one thousand two—96, etc.

And you can always do math. For example, from 120 feet to the halfway point at 60 feet should take two minutes. If your bottom time is 17 minutes when you start, it should be no less than 19 min-

utes at 60 feet. And from the 15-foot safety stop to the surface should take no less than 30 seconds. (More time is better.)

It also helps to practice in advance. On another dive, with plenty of air and no-deco time, try ascending from 30 feet to the surface in no less than one minute. Too fast? Next dive, try again. After a while, you'll know what 30 feet per second feels like.

(STEP SIX)

Pause Halfway Up

A PAUSE AT ABOUT 50 FEET in an ascent from 100 feet gives you the opportunity to make sure your buoyancy is still under control. You'll probably find you are a little too buoyant and will have to vent more air from your BC. Controlling your buoyancy is going to get hard-

Scuba Club Cozumel

Isla de Cozumel, México



*Quiet and unpretentious in the true Mexican sense.
All Diving Services in One Convenient Place.
See the difference a dedicated dive resort can make.*



800-847-5708



www.scubaclubcozumel.com

OUR WORLD-UNDERWATER XXXIV

✓ Mark your calendar for
April 23, 24 & 25, 2004
when the

34th Annual OUR WORLD-UNDERWATER Consumer Dive & Travel Exposition

will be held just minutes from
Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

The **Donald E. Stephens Convention Center** and **Hyatt Regency-O'Hare** will host the event featuring:

- Over 200 dive industry exhibitors
- Diving workshops & seminars
- Today's finest underwater films & photography
- FREE admission for children under 12 with paying adult

For details visit

www.ourworldunderwater.com

er with every foot from here on up, so it's best to fine-tune it now.

Besides, there's growing evidence that a pause of one minute at half your maximum depth can reduce your risk of DCS. The idea, basically, is that pausing here allows you to breathe out some dissolved nitrogen which, had you continued your ascent, would have formed tiny bubbles that would slow down nitrogen off-gassing. (For more details on deep stops, see "One Minute To Safer Diving," *Scuba Diving*, Dec. '03.)

After pausing one minute at 50 feet, you and your buddy should exchange OK and thumbs-up signals, and start ascending again. Next goal: A safety stop at 15 feet. You need to be especially careful to watch your ascent rate now and be prepared to flare out with your arms and legs if you lose control.

(STEP SEVEN)

Safety Stop

AS YOU PASS THROUGH 20 feet, vent the last few bubbles from your BC and glide to a stop near 15 feet. If you're a little light, try rocking back into the La-Z-Boy recliner position to move the last few air bubbles to your BC's primary exhaust valve. If you have to kick downward to keep your depth, remember the alternate exhaust valve on your BC. Normally on the bottom, it's now at the highest point, and pulling the "rip cord" may release a few bubbles.

Spending at least three minutes here is more important than a blanket rule like "exit with 500 psi," so breathe down to a couple hundred psi if you have to. Three minutes is a minimum. Air permitting, go for five minutes.

(STEP EIGHT)

The Final 15

AFTER WAITING three minutes at 15 feet, many divers pop to the surface, but these last few feet are where the pressure on your body changes fastest. Proportionally, it's the same pressure change you experience ascending from 100 feet to 55 feet. It's hardest to keep your ascent under control here, but also most important. Try to make the ascent last for at least 30 seconds. Be ready to flare out in order to slow down.

Back on the boat, congratulate yourself on accomplishing one of the least-practiced skills in diving and for keeping your ascent rate under control. Says Billingsley, "Even for experienced divers, that's a long ascent without some kind of line." **SD**

Cozumel ★ Mexico



IBEROSTAR COZUMEL HOTEL

Cozumel's Southernmost Hotel—Just minutes away from reefs!

\$999

7 nights hotel
All meals and unlimited bar
5 days of 2-tank boat diving
tax included
(based on double occupancy)
valid April 12–June 30, 2004

For information and reservations including discount airfare call
Iberostar Dive Vacations at 1-866-423-7678
or email dive@iberostar-hotels.com

Join us for a true diver's delight. Come and experience our 5-star PADI instruction program (from novice to expert) in our superb underwater scenery perfect for cenote and night dives, or simply relax in our 5-star all-inclusive resort. This all-inclusive package includes 7 nights accommodations, all scheduled and special activities, non-motorized watersports, and all meals and beverages (including alcoholic), plus hotel taxes and service charges.

World's #1 Most Popular Dive Destination 2001

COZUMEL'S HOTTEST DIVE PACKAGE!



Plaza Las Glorias
Cozumel Hotel & Villas

Deluxe Oceanview Jr. Suites with living area, private balcony and refrigerator.

And just a short stroll away from all the downtown excitement!

The name you know and trust in Cozumel

DIVE PARADISE

INCLUDES:

- 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS HOTEL
- 5 DAYS OF TWO-TANK MORNING BOAT DIVES
- 4 SINGLE-TANK AFTERNOON BOAT DIVES

new! Add all meals & unlimited bar for only **\$199!**

\$649*

BayAdventures
Dive Adventures and Island Vacations

1-888-599-DIVE(3483)

www.bayadventures.com info@bayadventures.com

*PP DBL OCC * INCLUDES ALL TAXES * EFFECTIVE 4/16-6/10 & 8/20-12/23. HOLIDAY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. CALL FOR MORE INFO AND DISCOUNT AIRFARE FROM YOUR DEPARTURE CITY!

The Quick Fix

On-site treatments for underwater cuts, scrapes, bites and stings.

BY SELENE YEAGER

THE KIND of marine life interaction you expect on a dive has nothing to do with jellyfish stings, sea urchin sticks and legs that resemble lunchmeat. But all that and more are possible when you come into contact, intentionally or not, with marine life. Following are some fast remedies for some of the most common injuries.

Coral Scrapes

CORAL CUTS happen when you brush up against the sharp calcified outer skeletons of coral. Though they appear innocuous, the wounds generally contain small amounts of animal protein and often become inflamed, swollen, infected sores.

TREATMENT: Irrigate the wound with fresh water. Scrub with soap and water, then flush again. To drive out any remaining coral dust, flush with a mixture of half water, half hydrogen peroxide. Cover with a coating of antibiotic ointment.

Fire Coral Stings

FIRE CORAL ISN'T actually coral at all, but a stinging marine animal of the jellyfish family. You know it's fire coral by the immediate burning sensation that follows contact. You'll also likely develop a raised, itchy rash, and maybe lymph gland swelling.

TREATMENT: Rinse clean with seawater (fresh water makes it hurt more). Rinse with vinegar or rubbing alcohol to reduce the pain. Use tweezers to pick out any remnants, or shave the area. An oral antihistamine like Benadryl

can reduce itching and burning. Or try an over-the-counter pain medication such as Tylenol.

Jellyfish Stings

THERE ARE ROUGHLY 9,000 varieties of jellyfish, and a bump and run with any of them is likely to cause some pain. Their stingers, or nematocysts, are usually located at the end of their tentacles. You'll generally see a raised welled area where contact occurred.

TREATMENT: Swish the wound in salt water. Neutralize any remaining stingers by rinsing with vinegar. Remove any remaining tentacles with tweezers. Shave the area with shaving cream and a razor—or, in a pinch, use a mud paste and clamshell. Rinse with vinegar again. Apply hydrocortisone cream. Keep affected area immobile. Some stings can be very toxic, even fatal, so watch for severe symptoms like unresponsiveness, cardiac arrest, nausea, swelling or trouble breathing that require immediate medical care.

Sea Urchin Sticks

THESE SPINY GLOBE-SHAPED creatures appear benign, but they have toxic spines that can cause painful punctures (and often an infection) should you accidentally bump into one. The spines can come off in the wound, causing further pain. In rare cases, multiple sticks can cause paralysis or even death.

TREATMENT: "Hot water helps inactivate the toxic spines," says ER doc George Bulloch. Flush or immerse the area with water that is very hot, but not scalding, for 30 to 90 minutes. Use tweezers to remove the spines. (Spines



near a joint or on hands or feet may need surgical removal.) Shave area with shaving cream and a razor—or use a mud paste and clamshell. Clean with soap and water, and thoroughly flush the wound. Apply antibiotic ointment; take an anti-inflammatory such as ibuprofen for pain. Severe symptoms like breathing trouble require immediate medical care.

Bristleworm Injury

FOUND UNDER ROCKS and corals in tropical areas, the spiny bristleworm can cause injury by biting or stinging you. The result: swelling, burning and pain.

TREATMENT: Flush with vinegar or alcohol to neutralize the venom and relieve pain. To remove bristles, try the old "adhesive tape trick," suggests Bulloch. "Use the sticky side of a piece of tape to pull the stickles off." Take Tylenol or ibuprofen for pain relief. A topical hydrocortisone cream may reduce inflammation.

Lionfish, Scorpionfish and Stonefish Punctures

TROPICAL AND TEMPERATE ocean denizens, these ornate fish have venomous erectile spines on their dorsal,

anal and pelvic fins. Their toxicity ranges from mild (lionfish) to potentially life threatening (stonefish). Accidental contact is usually the culprit in punctures. Symptoms range from intense pain and purple or black skin coloration to systemic reactions such as vomiting, respiratory or cardiac arrest, and worse.

TREATMENT: Use tweezers to remove any remaining spines. Flush or immerse the area with water that is very hot, but not scalding, for 30 minutes. Scrub with soap and water, and thoroughly flush with fresh water. Wrap the affected area snugly with an Ace bandage, but not so tight that you cut off circulation. Seek medical care.

Stingray Stings

BECAUSE THESE MASTER camouflage artists blend in so beautifully, it can

be easy to get stung. The sting can cause bleeding and sharp, intense pain. You may also experience swelling and discoloration of the wound, lymph node swelling and more severe (potentially fatal) systemic reactions.

TREATMENT: Irrigate the wound

with fresh water. Soak the affected area in hot water to relieve pain. Use tweezers to remove any part of the stinger that remains. Scrub the wound with soap and water. Apply pressure to the wound with a clean cloth or bandage to stop the bleeding. Seek medical care. **SD**

IT'S AN EMERGENCY IF ...

ANY STING, BITE OR WOUND can have deadly consequences if you have a strong reaction to the toxins or develop a bad infection. After any marine accident, watch for systemic reactions like **severe swelling, dizziness, blurred vision, breathing difficulties, weakness, muscle pain, cold sweat and rapid heartbeat**. If any occur, seek emergency care immediately.

Post-injury, clean the affected wound frequently and keep it dressed with an antibiotic ointment until it heals. If the wound swells, becomes hot, reddens or a red streak appears, develops pus or a foul odor, is painful to the touch, you develop a fever or you notice any other signs of infection, seek medical attention.



FREE!
FIRST 20 PEOPLE
TO BOOK RECEIVE A
**HENDERSON
HOTSkin!**

GO ON ASSIGNMENT WITH *RODALE'S SCUBA DIVING* IN PUERTO RICO! MAY 8-15, 2004 • COPAMARINA BEACH RESORT

Join professional photographers/videographers Georgienne Bradley and Jay Ireland for a very special week of diving, sightseeing and photos tips in the tropical paradise of Puerto Rico. Bradley and Ireland will be on assignment for *Rodale's Scuba Diving*, and as their guests, you will follow them as their story unfolds, gaining access to and exploring areas off the beaten path.



YOUR EXPEDITION WILL INCLUDE:

- 5 days - 2 tank diving, 7 nights accommodations at the beautiful Copamarina Beach Resort
- Free night dive • Free buffet breakfast • Mangrove tour and snorkel
- Hikes and photo sessions in the Guánica Dry Forest • Fuji Provia 100 film

\$829 pp*

Plus, you'll have a chance to win expedition prizes including:
Princeton Tec lights - Shockwave II, Tec-400 and Tec-40 • SeaLife Reefmaster cameras

PARTICIPATING SPONSORS:



Call Caradonna Caribbean Tours to book your spot today!

800-301-1467

*All inclusive rates available if interested.

PUERTO RICO —
www.GoToPuertoRico.com ~ 1-800-301-1467

As dangerous as they are fascinating, wreck structures pose threats to divers of all experience levels.

Penetrating Questions

When diving a wreck, should you go inside? Not without proper training.

BY MICHAEL ANGE

WHETHER IT'S A historic vessel lost to the indignities of war and weather, or an everyday freighter sunk as a diver's playground, there's something about wreck diving that gets a diver's blood bubbling—in a good way. It can also be one of the most dangerous pursuits in diving, especially when divers penetrate a wreck's interior without proper training and gear.

Open Water Wreck Diving

THE FIRST STEP to safely diving wrecks

is entry-level wreck diving certification. Offered by recreational training agencies, this course teaches you to identify and deal with common hazards found when diving the exterior of a shipwreck. These hazards include disorientation, sharp metal edges and entanglement hazards created by rigging, nets and monofilament line.

In addition to making exterior explorations safer, an entry-level wreck diving course is also a good first step to advanced levels of wreck diving. Your training dives in an open-water wreck diving course focus on surveying the wreck to identify all potential hazards and proper navigation techniques to help you maintain a constant awareness of your position on the wreck relative to the ascent line. The metal in the shipwreck can

make your compass virtually useless for navigating, so this part of the class focuses on natural navigation cues.

Limited Penetration

THE NEXT LEVEL OF TRAINING

teaches skills for limited penetration. Limited-penetration divers typically use traditional recreational equipment, although some also carry a wreck reel for primary navigation. While limited-penetration courses are offered by most recreational and technical training agencies, the definition of limited penetration is not clear-cut. Most technical agencies define limited penetration as swimming into simple swim-through areas where the risk of entanglement and entrapment is minimal and the diver can remain inside the natural light zone created by the entry area. Limited-penetration divers should never rely on light streaming through portholes or other nonpassable openings and should always

ERIC HANAUER

keep the entry/exit point in easy view.

The biggest potential hazard for the limited-penetration diver is loss of vision. The clear water inside the wreck will nearly always be clouded by rust particles, silt and other sediments when you turn to exit. Poor buoyancy control, poor fin technique and even your exhaust bubbles will cause this diminished visibility by kicking up sand and silt, and dislodging sediments from rusting steel plates overhead.

These clouds of silt and sediment can range from a minor annoyance to a disorienting hazard that completely robs you of the ability to see. To alleviate these problems, limited-penetration divers are trained to penetrate only open passages that have large openings for access and preferably more than one opening for entry and exit.

Full Penetration

THE MOST ADVANCED FORM of wreck diving is full-penetration or technical wreck diving. At this level, divers are trained to penetrate to any level of the ship provided that the structure is stable and the dive is within the skill and experience level of the diver.

The penetration diver must have skills very similar to those used in cave diving, and he assumes that every wreck dive will be a decompression dive. Therefore, most training programs go beyond penetration skill to include gas management techniques and the use of decompression gases to facilitate staged decompression stops during the ascent. This training often includes use of a lift bag or surface marker to allow the dive boat to track the diver's location if he is forced to decompress while drifting.

In addition to a stage tank and a surface marker, the penetration diver will replace his primary cylinder with either a high-capacity (98 to 120 cubic feet) single cylinder with an H valve or a twin cylinder configuration utilizing an isola-

tion manifold with two regulator connection outlets. Either of these tank configurations will allow the diver to both carry more gas and to carry a complete, separate regulator system consisting of a first stage and second stage connected by a five- to seven-foot-long hose.

If the diver should find himself inside the wreck and experience a catastrophic failure in one regulator system (such as an uncontrolled second stage free flow), the diver can simply shut down the malfunctioning regulator and switch to the backup. This will allow the diver to preserve his gas supply for exiting the wreck without having to share gas with a buddy. If the situation becomes even worse and the diver finds his primary gas supply completely exhausted, the seven-foot hose allows the diver's buddy to share gas even if the divers have to pass through restricted passageways one behind the other.

Penetration divers also use a conservative gas management technique called the rule of thirds. In very simple terms, this means that the diver uses one-third of his gas as he swims away from the exit point, one-third of his gas to return to the exit point, and saves one-third of his gas to deal with any emergencies that may occur.

The full-penetration diver will use wreck reels and line markers to safely navigate inside the wreck. During the course of penetration, the divers will survey the structure of the wreck to look for loose or unstable structures and alternative paths to open water should the primary entry route become impassable.

Technical wreck dives can be done on any intact structure; however, divers pursuing this passion frequently discover that deeper wrecks offer the most potential. Therefore, most technical wreck divers will also get training in extended-range or tri-mix diving in order to access wrecks in the 150- to 330-foot range.

SD

LIGHT & MOTION

UNDERWATER IMAGING INNOVATION

Titan

Supports Nikon D100 6 Megapixel digital SLR.

Still



- > Aluminum construction
- > ROC strobe controller
- > Fingertip push button controls
- > Glass ports

Tetra

Supports most Olympus Camedia series digital cameras, including the new C-5060 Wide Zoom.



- > Aluminum construction
- > Digital TTL
- > ROC strobe controller
- > Multiple ports

Mako

Supports Sony PC330 3 Megapixel Mini DV camcorder.



Video

- > Video and still imaging in one
- > Fingertip electronic controls
- > Double O-ring seals
- > Locking latches

Stingray

Supports multiple Sony Mini DV camcorders.



- > Aluminum construction
- > Fingertip controls
- > Double O-ring seals
- > Economically priced

Depth

1



CANNIBAL ROCK, INDONESIA, P. 17 • Accommodations range from hotels on nearby islands to luxury live-aboards. For a list of dive charters and live-aboards in Indonesia, go to www.scubadiving.com and click on TripFinder.

KICKER ROCK, GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, P. 18 • You never know what you'll encounter at Kicker Rock. Currents usually aren't strong, and even snorkelers stop for a visit. **DIVE CHARTERS** > *Galapagos Aggressor I* and *Galapagos Aggressor II*, www.aggressor.com; *Lammer Law*, www.galapagosdiving.com; *Peter Hughes' Sky Dancer*, www.peter-hughes.com.

THE CHIMNEY, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, P. 20 • The Chimney is seven miles north of Virgin Gorda, so you'll need a boat to get there. The usually calm conditions and shallow depth (45 feet, tops) make this an easy dive. For a list of British Virgin Islands dive operators, plus travel guides and more, go to www.scubadiving.com and click on TripFinder.



2



COZUMEL TRAVEL GUIDE, P. 36 • WATER CONDITIONS >

Water temperatures vary from 75 degrees in winter to 85 degrees in summer, but you can count on 100 feet of visibility just about year-round. **CLIMATE** > Cozumel averages a balmy year-round temperature of about 80 degrees. During the May-to-October rainy season, expect afternoon thundershowers. **GETTING THERE** > Daily flights from Houston, Miami and New York. Commuter flights from Cancun are scheduled several times daily. Inexpensive ferry boats from Playa Del Carmen run from before dawn to well after midnight seven days a week. **DOCUMENTS** > Proof of citizenship; either a valid passport or the combination of a birth certificate and driver's license is required. **GETTING AROUND** > Shuttle vans or rental cars are the only transportation from the airport and make the circuit to all the hotels. Cabs are readily available at all hotels, or you can wave one off the street. You can also rent jeeps, cars and scooters. **LANGUAGE** > Spanish, though English is widely spoken. **ELECTRICITY** > 110 volts/60 cycles. **TIME** > Cozumel is in the Central time zone and doesn't observe daylight-saving time.

STEVE SIMONSEN

3



DRIVE & DIVE: GREAT LAKES WRECKS, P. 43

Most Great Lakes' dive charters do not schedule trips between November and April, though certified ice divers say diving these lakes in winter is awesome. For the rest of us, the dive season is from May to October; the best visibility (from 50 to 70 feet) occurs in May and June, not long after the ice melts. Early July through late September, when the water is somewhat warmer, can also be good, with up to 50 feet of visibility. You'll need a dry suit or, at the very least, an excellent quarter-inch full wetsuit, hood, boots and gloves. By July or August, the Great Lakes have often warmed up enough (60 to 65 degrees near the surface) so that many divers prefer wearing a wetsuit, though the northern half of the Great Lakes does not warm up as much as the southern half. During the cold "shoulder" times of the dive season, some charter operators require that you dive in a dry suit. **DIVE OPERATORS** > *Annie Falconer*, Ducks Dive Charters & Cottages, Picton, Ontario, (613) 476-3764, e-mail: ducksdive@attcanada.net, web: www.ducksdive.com. • *Wolfe Islander II*, Limestone Dive Center, Kingston, Ontario, (800) 286-DIVE, e-mail: Charters@divekingston.com, web: www.divekingston.com. • *Dean Richmond*, Osprey Charters, Barcelona, N.Y., (716) 326-2773, cell: (716) 753-6565, e-mail: osprey@cecomet.net, web: www.osprey-dive.com. • *Merida*, Discovery Dive Charters & Tours, Cleveland, Ohio, (216) 481-5771 or (216) 692-3483, web: www.discoverydive.com. • *Mary Alice B.*, Lakeshore Charters, Lexington, Mich., (810) 359-8660, e-mail: divelog@greatlakes.net, web: www.greatlakes.net/~divelog. • *Sandusky*, Straits Scuba Center, St. Ignace, Mich., (810) 329-3596, web: www.straitsscuba.com; Scuba North, Traverse City, Mich., (231) 947-2520, e-mail:

4



GEAR REVIEW, P. 85

MANUFACTURER Product Name	PRICE	WARRANTY	MADE IN	TYPE	DIMENSIONS IN. (HxWxD)	MATERIALS	CLOSURES
DRY BAGS							
AKONA AKB724 Dry Shoulder Bag	\$85	2 yrs.	China	Water-resistant	11x15x6	PU-coated 600-denier nylon	Zippers
MARINE SPORTS Dry Pak	\$24.94	1 yr.	China	Water-proof	19x 12	10-oz. vinyl	Fold-and-roll
SEASOFT SCUBA DryBag	\$129.99	2 yrs.	USA	Water-resistant	36x17x11	Polymer-impregnated vinyl	Zipper
STAHLSCAC Bone Dry Storage Bag	\$89	Lifetime	USA	Water-proof	21x10x8	PU-coated 840-denier nylon	Zip-dry seal/fold-and-roll
TRIPLE-I Sahara	\$93	2-yr. Limited	Vietnam	Submersible	20x16x7	PVC-coated 840-denier nylon	Zipper
USIA Multi-Purpose Bag	\$229	5-yr. Limited	USA	Submersible	10.5x8x3.5	PU-coated 400-denier pack cloth	Zipper
XS SCUBA Sedona Large Duffel	\$90	Limited Lifetime	China	Water-proof	24x9x11	PU-coated 600-denier nylon	Fold-and-roll
DRY BOXES							
OTTER PRODUCTS 6500 Series Dry Box	\$65.05; \$75.55 (w/ foam)	Lifetime	USA	Submersible	7x13x11	FG-reinforced ABS plastic	Latches
PELICAN PRODUCTS 1500 Protector Case	\$145.95	Lifetime	USA	Submersible	7x19x13	Copolymer polypropylene	Latches

FOR MORE INFO:

AKONA

www.akona.com
MARINE SPORTS www.marinesportsproducts.com
OTTER PRODUCTS www.otterbox.com

PELICAN PRODUCTS

www.pelican.com
SEASOFT SCUBA www.seasoftscuba.com
STAHLSCAC www.stahlsac.com

TRIPLE-I INTERNATIONAL

www.triple-i.biz
USIA www.usia.com
XS SCUBA www.xsscuba.com

dive@scubanorth.com, web: www.scubanorth.com. • *Wells Burt*, Enterprise Marine, Des Plaines, Ill., (847) 520-4689, e-mail: CaptDale@aol.com, web: www.captaindales.com; Dive Chicago, Chicago, Ill., (312) 922-5090, web: www.DiveChicago.com; Chicago Dive Charters, Chicago, Ill., (312) 842-1480, web: www.chicagodivecharter.com. • *Prins Willem V*, Len-Der Charters, Milwaukee, Wis., (414) 482-1430, e-mail: jerryguy@msn.com, web: http://communities.msn.com/LenDer-

Charters. • *Frank O'Connor*, Jim Robinson, The Shoreline Resort & Charters, Ellison Bay, Wis., (920) 854-2606, e-mail: front@theshorelineresort.com, web: www.theshorelineresort.com. • *Bermuda*, Grand Island Charters, Munising, Mich., (906) 387-4477, e-mail: plindqui@jamadots.com, web: www.shipwrecktours.com; North Star Charters, Munising, Mich., (906) 387-5900 or (906) 452-6499, e-mail: lindqui@up.net, web: www.lakesuperiordiving.com.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Rodale's Scuba Diving (ISSN 1060-9563) is published monthly, except February, by Rodale Inc., 33 E. Minor St., Emmaus, PA 18098. Periodicals postage paid at Emmaus, PA, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Rodale's Scuba Diving Subscriber Service, P.O. Box 7589, Red Oak, IA 51591-0589.** Subscription rate for 1 year (11 issues): United States, \$21.98; Canada, \$32.98; Canadian funds, includes GST #R122988611; all other foreign, \$39.98 U.S. funds prepaid. In Canada, postage paid at Gateway, Mississauga, Ontario; Canada Post Publication Mail Agreement No. 40063752. **Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to Scuba, P.O. Box 7000, Georgetown, Ontario, L5G 5B9.**



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL Golden

Rodale's

ALABAMA

Down Under Dive Shop, Gulf Shores 251-968-3483
RNR Dive Shop, Birmingham 205-854-3483
Dive Sports, Decatur 256-350-1122

ALBERTA

Drac/Sub Sea Experience, Edmonton 403-434-1433
Aqua-Tek Scuba Lt, Edmonton 780-484-2780

ARIZONA

Water World Scuba, Bullhead City 928-763-5531
N-Depth Scuba LLC, Phoenix 480-706-6946
Scuba Fantasies, Prescott 928-778-7129
Ocean Planet, Tempe 480-557-8265
Desert Divers Scuba Ctr, Tucson 800-830-DIVE
Diver Emporium, LLC, Tucson 888-547-3483

ARKANSAS

Rick's Dive & Travel Ctr, N. Little Rock 501-753-6004

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Aquashack Diving Service LTD, Campbell River 250-923-8944
Beaver Aquatics, LTD, Campbell River 604-287-7652
Divers West, N. Vancouver 604-737-2822
BC Dive Adventures, N. Vancouver 604-983-2232
The Great Pacific Diving Co, N. Vancouver 604-986-0302
Bamfield Dive Shed, Port Alberni 250-723-3551
The Great Pacific Diving Co, Surrey 604-583-1700
Union Bay Diving, Union Bay 877-883-3483
Rowlands Reef Dive Shop, Vancouver 604-669-3483
Ogden Point Dive Center, Victoria 250-380-9119

CALIFORNIA

Aquanuts Dive Center, Atascadero 805-462-3493
2 Dive 4 Scuba, LLC, Bakersfield 661-716-3483
Pacific Quest Dive Center, Crescent City 707-464-8753
Captain Aqua's, Dublin 925-829-3843
Santa Barbara Aquatics, Goleta 805-967-4456
American Diving, Lomita 310-326-6663
Original Steele's Discount, Oakland 510-655-4344
Cameron Park Dive Ctr., Rancho Morieta 916-676-3483
Empire Scuba, Redlands 714-798-3483
Scuba World of Sacramento, Sacramento 916-332-8294
Dolphin Scuba Center, Sacramento 916-332-8294
California Dive Center, San Bruno 650-588-4998
Aqua Tech Dive Center, San Diego 619-237-1800
Ocean Enterprises, San Diego 619-565-6054
Diver's Outlet, San Dimas 909-394-2180
Stan's Skin & Scuba Diving, San Jose 408-998-0767
Diver Dan's Wet Pleasure, Santa Clara 408-984-5819
Scuba Haus, Santa Monica 213-828-2916
Sunsports, South Lake Tahoe 530-541-6000
Scuba Plus+, Inc, Stockton 209-957-2822
Blue Water Divers, Sunnyvale 408-733-4369
Ocean Adventures Dive Co., Venice 310-578-9391
Scuba Schools of America, Woodland Hills 818-225-1616

COLORADO

Journey of Discovery, Crested Butte 866-860-1001
Abyss Scuba & Travel, Littleton 303-795-7070
Rocky Mountain Diving Centers, Lakewood 303-232-2400
Underwater Connection, Colorado Springs 719-599-3483
A-1 Scuba Center, Englewood 303-789-2450
Underwater Phantasies, Englewood 303-220-8282
High Plains Scuba Ctr, Fort Collins 970-493-8562
Adventure Sports, Grand Junction 970-245-3684
Twin Peaks Travel and Scuba, Longmont 303-678-7080
Scuba Den, Wheatridge 303-431-1088

CONNECTICUT

Capt Saam's Scuba School, Stamford 203-327-2822
Rex Dive Center, Norwalk 888-260-DIVE
New England Ski & Scuba, Vernon 203-872-0113

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

National Diving Center, Washington 202-363-6123

FLORIDA

Conch Republic Divers, Tavernier 800-274-DIVE
Orlando Scuba Center, Orlando 407-896-4541
Deep Six Watersports, Vero Beach 772-562-8338
Fill Express, Pompano Beach 954-786-0661
Captain Morgan's Dive Tours, Inc, Marathon 305-289-0905
Stuart Dive Center, Stuart 772-692-1828
Wet Pleasures Dive Outfitters, Lantana 561-547-4343
Paradise Charters Dive Center, Key Largo 800-921-5549
Sea Trek Divers of Bradenton Beach, Bradenton 941-779-1506

Our Ocean Dreams, Inc, Clearwater 727-578-3095
Mac's Sports, Inc., Clearwater 813-442-9931
South Lake Divers, Clermont 352-536-9600
Diver's Emporium, Crestview 850-689-3483
Crystal Lodge Dive Ctr, Crystal River 904-795-6798
Crystal River Watersports, Crystal River 352-795-7033
Bird's Underwater!, Inc, Crystal River 352-563-2763
American Pro Dive, Crystal River 352-563-0041
Atlantic Scuba, Daytona Beach 386-253-7558
Spruce Creek Scuba, Daytona Beach 386-767-1727
Dixie Divers of Deerfield Beach 954-420-0009
Holiday Diver, Inc, Deerfield Beach 954-429-0116
Divers Direct Outlet, Florida City 305-246-8488
Lauderdale Diver, Fort Lauderdale 954-467-2822
Scuba School & Dive Ctr, Ft. Lauderdale 954-566-6344
Holiday Isle Dive Center, Islamorada 305-664-3483
Scuba Works, Jupiter 800-908-DIVE
Jupiter Dive Center, Jupiter 561-745-7807
Divers Direct Outlet, Key Largo 305-451-0815
World Watersports Superstore, Key Largo 305-451-0118
Dive In, Inc Key Largo 305-852-1919
Amy Slate's, Key Largo 305-451-3595
Dive For Fun Inc., DBA Key Largo, 800-272-4148
Aqua-Nuts Dive Center, LLC, Key Largo 305-451-0414
Captain Slate's Atlantis Dive Ctr, Key Largo 305-451-3020
Divers Direct Outlet, Key West 305-293-5122
Subtropic Dive Center, Key West 800-853-3483
Deep Six Divers Service Inc, Lakeland 941-688-3015
Hammerhead Dive Center, Lakeland 863-802-0764
Seminole Scuba Inc., Lake Mary 407-333-8856
Tilden's Scuba Center, Marathon 305-743-7255
Captain Hooks Marina & Dive, Marathon 305-743-2444
Hall's Diving Center, Marathon 800-331-4255
South Beach Divers, Miami 305-531-8785
The Scuba Shop, Miami 305-255-2888
Tarpon Lagoon, Miami Beach 305-532-1445
Naples Dive Center, Naples 239-775-4357
Mermaids Dive Center, North Miami Beach 305-940-0926
Scuba Florida, Orange City 386-532-8080
Scuba Tiger, Orange Park 904-264-4744
Divers Direct Outlet, Orlando 561-775-0577
Divers Direct Outlet, Palm Beach Gardens 904-234-8717
Divers Den, Panama City 850-230-8006
Dive Locker, Panama City Beach 954-430-3483
Divers Unlimited, Pembroke 888-659-3483
Scuba Shack/Wet Dream Charters, Inc, Pensacola 888-659-3483
MBT Dive Center, Pensacola 850-455-7702
Divers Direct Outlet, Plantation 954-472-3988
Vortex Spring Inc, Ponce Deleon 904-836-4979
Seapro Scuba Center, Riviera Beach 561-844-3483
Fun 2 Dive Scuba, Sanford 407-322-9696
Action Aquatics Scuba Diving, Tampa 813-835-0062
Calypso Divers, Tampa 813-615-2126
Florida Keys Dive Center, Tavernier 305-852-4599
Florida Scuba Connection, Inc., Winter Garden 407-654-1177
Discover Diving Dive Center, Port Orange 386-760-3483

GEORGIA

Georgia Offshore, Midway 912-756-5260
Dolphin Dive Center, Athens 706-548-3483
All About Diving Inc, Cumming 770-889-9816
Adventures in Diving, Duluth 770-418-0444
Peachtree Dive Center, Fayetteville 770-487-6609
Lanier Scuba Center, Flowery Branch 770-965-8588
Lagrange Dive Center, Lagrange 706-812-9011
Dive...Dive...Dive..., Lawrenceville 678-407-2442
Garrard Underwater Educators, Marietta 770-984-0382
Wet Set Scuba & Travel, Stockbridge 770-389-9949

HAWAII

Aqua Zone, Honolulu 866-923-3483
See In Sea Scuba, Honolulu 808-528-2311
Oahu Dive Center, Kailua 808-263-7333
Jack's Diving Locker, Kailua-Kona 808-329-7585
Kohala Divers Limited, Kawaihae 808-882-7774
Scuba Shack, Kihei 877-213-4488
Maui Dive Shop, Kihei 808-879-3388
Sea Sport Divers, Kohala 808-742-9303
Lahaina Divers Inc, Lahaina 808-667-7496
Snorkels N. More, Lahaina 808-665-0804

IDAHO

Inland Scuba, Inc, Idaho Falls 208-529-2636
Dive Magic, Twin Falls 208-733-8203

ILLINOIS

Sea Level Diving Inc, Crystal Lake 815-479-0996
Illinois Institute of Diving, Glen Ellyn 630-469-3483
D.D. Dive Shop, Glenview 847-657-3483
Sea Lions Dive Center, Hanover Park 630-289-1680
Haigh Quarry, Kankakee 815-939-7797
Goose's Scuba, Lansing 708-474-7380
DJ's Scuba Locker, Lyons 708-442-4388
Sentry Pool & Dive, Moline 309-797-9721
Aqua Diving School, Morton 309-263-0045
Berry Dive Center, Palatine 847-358-3848
Forest City Scuba/Sports, Rockford 815-398-7119
Scuba Systems, Skokie 847-674-0222
Adventures in Paradise Dive Ctr, Wheeling 847-520-4689

INDIANA

Fun Time Scuba Inc., Brazil 812-443-3483
Hart City Scuba, Elkhart 219-264-3528
Scuba Quest, Inc., Fishers 317-773-4837
Leaird's Underwater Svc, Muncie 317-288-8144
Seaweed Divers, New Albany 812-949-8060
The Scuba Tank, Valparaiso 219-477-4454

IOWA

Blue Water Divers, Arnolds Park 712-332-6370
Scuba Too, Cedar Falls 319-268-4201
Seateasea Scuba, Hiawatha 866-305-7446

KANSAS

Midwest Aquatics, Overland Park 913-402-0403
Mask-Snorkel-Fin, Inc, Lawrence 785-749-0500

KENTUCKY

Pennyroyal Scuba, Hopkinsville 270-887-2585
Innerspace Scuba Adventures, Lexington 859-276-6165
New Horizons, Lexington 859-277-1234
Louisville Dive Center, Louisville 502-458-8427
Kentucky Diving Hdqtrs, Louisville 502-897-6481

LOUISIANA

Dive Toledo Scuba Ctr, Anacoco 337-286-5565
Underwater Adventures, Baton Rouge 504-927-1932
True Blue Watersports, Lake Charles 337-310-1681
Mike's Dive Center, Lake Charles 337-430-0073
The Scuba Company, New Orleans 877-41SCUBA
Underwater Treasures, West Monroe 318-324-0204

MAINE

Aqua Diving Academy, Portland 207-772-4200
Aqua City Scuba, Waterville 207-873-0266

MANITOBA

Divers Den, Winnipeg 204-453-6300
Underworld Scuba & Sport, Winnipeg 204-837-9047

MARYLAND

Annapolis Scuba Center, Annapolis 410-266-8327
Columbia Scuba, Inc., Columbia 410-381-1994
Undersea Outfitters, Finksburg 410-517-4999
Brass Anchor Scuba Ctr, Frederick 301-663-9363
Sea Dive, Solomons 410-326-4386

MASSACHUSETTS

Undersea Divers, Inc, Beverly 978-927-9551
East Coast Divers, Brookline 617-277-2216
Northeast Scuba, Chelmsford 978-256-2300
East Coast Divers, Framingham 508-620-1176
South Shore Skindivers, North Weymouth 617-331-1144
Diver's Market, Inc, Plymouth 508-746-3483
Scuba Center, South Attleboro 508-761-5015
At The Water's Edge, Inc, Westfield 413-532-5110
Holyoke Underwater Sply, West Springfield 413-737-2300

MICHIGAN

Divers, Inc., Ann Arbor 734-971-7770
Sub-Aquatic Sports, Battle Creek 616-968-8551
Aquatic Adventures of MI, Brighton 810-225-9868
Divers Central, Inc, Cadillac 616-876-3484
A-Com Diving Adventures, Fair Haven 810-725-7840
Divers Mast, Jackson 517-784-5862
Diver's Den, Lake Orion 248-693-9801
ZZ Underwater World, Lansing 517-485-3894
West Michigan Dive Center, LLC, Muskegon 231-733-4200
JR Aquatic Center, Niles 269-684-7007
Adventure Scuba, Novi 248-615-3483
Rod's Reef, Pentwater 231-869-2509
Dive Site, Portage 616-323-3700
Four Fathoms Diving, Port Sanilac 810-622-3483
Great Lakes Divecenter, Inc, Shelby Twp 586-254-7670

Tank Retailer

Scuba North, Inc, Traverse City 616-947-2520
Great Lakes Scuba, Traverse City 231-943-DIVE

MINNESOTA

The Dive Depot, Bemidji 218-444-3467
Minnesota School of Diving, Inc, Brainerd 218-829-5953
Air Down There Scuba, Little Canada 651-482-0977
Northland Divers Inc, Maplewood 651-777-4278
Scuba Center, Minneapolis 612-925-4818
Mick's Scuba, Moorhead 218-233-0448
Minnesota Dive Center, Rochester 507-288-8802
St. Cloud Scuba Center, Inc, St. Cloud 320-656-8925

MISSISSIPPI

Deep South Scuba, Jackson 601-957-3483

MISSOURI

Bonne Terre Mine, Bonne Terre 888-THE-DIVE
Scuba Sports, Branson 417-334-9073
West End Diving/Bonne Terre, Mine Bridgeton 314-209-7200
International Scuba Academy, Gladstone 816-468-2133
Skin N Scuba Dive Shop, Independence 816-358-0855
Divers Equipment & Repair Services, Kansas City 816-763-5678
TD Scuba, Lee's Summit 816-525-3487
Captain John's Sports & Scuba, Oronogo 417-673-2724
Midwest Scuba, St. Charles 636-255-0707
Scuba Shop USA, St. Louis 314-849-3483
Sho-me Scuba, Springfield 417-882-3483

MONTANA

Adventure Scuba, Billings 406-259-7363
Sports Cove, Bozeman 406-585-9926

NEVADA

Strictly Scuba, Carson City 775-884-3483
Desert Divers Supply, Inc, Las Vegas 702-438-1000
Sierra Diving Center, Reno 775-825-2147
Adventure Scuba, Reno 775-826-5333

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Discover Diving, Atkinson 603-362-6272
Aquanuts Scuba Shop, Inc, Concord 603-228-9981
Underwater Sports of New Hampshire, Keene 800-457-4430
Dive Winnepesaukee Corp., Wolfeboro 603-569-2120

NEW JERSEY

Lakeland Divers East, Hanover 201-887-0194
Under The Sea, Inc, Eatontown 732-542-9335
Hunterdon Scuba Center, Flemington 908-806-0555
The Scuba Connection, Hillsborough 908-359-1250
Hoboken Dive Center, Hoboken 201-795-3483
Aqua-Tech Scuba Center, Maple Shade 609-482-1996
East Coast Diving Supply, Northfield 609-646-5090
Mar-vel Underwater Equip. Inc, Pennsauken 856-488-4499
Elite Divers Inc, Rockaway 201-586-2214

NEW YORK

Finger Lakes Scuba, Auburn 800-764-3483
S & R Underwater, Beaver Dams 607-936-9242
Kings County Divers, Brooklyn 718-648-4232
Discover Diving, Buffalo 716-685-4557
Scuba Network, Carle Place 516-997-4864
Captain Mike's Diving Services, City Island 718-885-1588
Almost Paradise Far, Rockaway 718-471-2400
Village Divers, New York 212-780-0879
Captain Bill's Upper River Diving Adventures, Niagara Falls 716-283-3483

North Shore Aquatics, Northport 516-262-7282
Aquatic World, North Syracuse 315-458-1955
Mel's Dive Shop, Plattsburgh 518-561-7138
Byram Bay Sports Inc, Port Chester 914-937-2685
Hampton Dive Center, Riverhead 631-727-7578
Peconic Scuba, Riverhead 516-727-7578
Swim & Scuba, Rockville Center 516-872-4571
Swim King Dive Shop, Rocky Point 631-744-7707
The Dive Shop Inc, Syracuse 315-487-7558
Aqua-Sports Diving, Inc, Tonawanda 716-694-2293

NORTH CAROLINA

Discovery Diving Co, Inc, Beaufort 252-728-2265
Greensboro Scuba, Brown Summit 336-656-7856
Born Diving, Inc, Cornelius 704-896-8055
Seaduction Dive Services, Dunn 910-892-7878
Cape Fear Scuba, Inc, Fayetteville 910-867-2844
Blue Region Scuba, Inc, Greenville 252-321-2670
Cygnus Scuba, Hendersonville 828-681-5330
Triad Divers Supply, High Point 336-886-8808

Scuba Tech, Inc, Holly Ridge 910-329-1666
Neptune's Locker Diving Center, Monroe 704-238-9988
Olympus Dive Center, Morehead City 252-726-9432
Down Under Surf and Scuba, Raleigh 919-852-5333
Blue Dolphin Dive Center, Winston-Salem 919-760-9226

NORTH DAKOTA

Adventure Divers, Minot 701-839-9476

NOVA SCOTIA

Easy Dive Canada, West Bay 902-345-2215

OHIO

D & M Sport Diving, Akron 330-784-1414
Safety Service Divers, Amherst 440-988-5079
Scuba West, Inc, Cleveland 216-476-3483
Brian Scott Scuba, Cortland 330-637-3131
Southern Ohio Diving, Dayton 937-298-2999
A.S.K. Scuba & Snorkeling Center, Dublin 614-889-2822
Sand-N-Sea Scuba Diving Center, Gahanna 614-337-0526
Aqua Specialists, Inc, Lakewood 216-521-4855
Gone To Sea Watersports, North Olmsted 440-734-4008
Underwater Warehouse, Piqua 937-778-3483
New Wave Scuba Center, Port Clinton 419-734-2240

OKLAHOMA

Frank's Underwater Sports, Edmond 405-947-0040
Horizons Unlimited, Oklahoma City 405-751-4872
Dive Site, Tulsa 918-664-5717

ONTARIO

Float N' Flag Dive Shop, Burlington 416-333-DIVE
Red Devil Scuba Supplies, Chatham 519-358-1988
Scuba Shack, Gravenhurst 705-687-5879
Travel Sports Equipment, London 519-434-2611
Cross Current Divers London, London 519-645-8820
Burtons Dive Service, Ottawa 613-745-6444
Mississauga Diving Ltd, Port Credit 905-277-8881
Waterline Sports, Toronto 416-488-6000
Pisces Water Sports & Photo, Woodstock 519-539-7345

OREGON

Watersports II, Corvallis 503-757-8851
Eugene Skin Divers Supply, Eugene 541-342-2351
Hydrosports Dive and Travel, Keizer 503-304-5383
Southern Oregon Divers, Klamath Falls 541-273-5833
Rogue Valley Scuba Center, Medford 541-608-2728
Horizon Watersports Inc, Portland 503-297-8133
White Orca Divers, Portland 503-761-9643
Oregon Underwater, Portland 503-761-8526
Scuba Outfitters, Salem 503-566-7400

PENNSYLVANIA

Mid-Atlantic Scuba, Bensalem 215-245-0141
D&R Divers, Brockport 814-265-1227
D.S. II, Conshohocken 610-828-4236
Smoky's Divers Den, Lancaster 717-393-5333
Northeast Scuba Supply, Norristown 610-631-2288
Blue Horizons Dive Center, Philadelphia 215-462-7587
The Diving Bell, Philadelphia 215-763-6868
F. F. Divers, Sellersville 215-453-8744
A-1 Scuba Diving & Snorkeling Adventures, Trevese 877-729-7751

PUERTO RICO

Kalichee Surf Shop, Dorado 787-796-3852
Sea Ventures Pro Dive Center, Fajardo 787-863-3483

QUEBEC

E.P. Planete Ocean, Laval 450-629-7311
Waddell Aquatics, Montreal 514-482-1890
Aqua Plein Air Inc, Ste Therese 450-433-1294

SOUTH CAROLINA

Seahorse Snorkel & Scuba, Aiken 803-643-DIVE
Issaquena Outdoor Center, Anderson 864-222-1354
Palmetto Dive Center, Beaufort 843-524-1100
Charleston Scuba, Charleston 803-763-3483
Columbia Scuba LLC, Columbia 803-788-9166
Scuba Express, Murrells Inlet 866-566-9338
The Scuba Shop, Spartanburg 864-585-5694

SOUTH DAKOTA

Donovan's Hobby & Scuba, Sioux Falls 605-338-6945

TENNESSEE

Leisure Time Dive & Ski, Chattanooga 423-622-1335
Blue Clear Divers, Knoxville 865-693-9940
Rolf Lanz Sports Ctr. Inc, Knoxville 865-690-3200

H2O Scuba Center, Memphis 901-458-5006
C & D Diving Inc, Spring Hill 931-486-3710

TEXAS

Surface Interval Scuba, Arlington 817-652-3483
Athens Scuba Park, Athens 903-675-5762
Tom's Dive & Ski Inc, Austin 512-451-3425
Gulf Coast Scuba, Beaumont 888-GO-DIVE-1
Scuba Toys, Carrollton 877-728-2243
Lone Star Scuba, Dallas 214-233-3483
Dive West, Dallas 214-750-6900
M & W Diving, El Paso 915-581-3329
Lone Star Scuba, Fort Worth 817-377-3483
Tucker's Dive Shop, Grand Prairie 972-264-7305
Grapevine Scuba, Grapevine 817-488-4999
Escafandra Dive Center, Hidalgo 52 818 3780839
Discover Scuba, Houston 713-523-9055
R & D Scuba, Houston 713-266-0722
W.W. Diving, Humble 713-540-1616
Scuba Connections, Keller 817-431-2801
Guadalupe Scuba/Hobby, Kerrville 830-895-5654
The Scuba Shack, Mcallen 956-668-7282
Family Scuba Center, Inc, Midland 432-686-7333
Texas Divers Den, Inc, Nederland 409-721-5600
Makai Divers, New Braunfels 830-609-3483
Emerald Sea Divers, Richardson 972-669-3483
Scuba Southwest, Rockwall 972-772-8008
Ocean's Window, San Antonio 210-490-3483
Deep Blue Adventures, San Antonio 210-930-1188
The Dive Shop, San Marcos 512-396-3483
Duggan Diving Ent., Universal City 210-658-7495

UTAH

Dive Addicts, Draper 801-572-5111
Dive Utah, Holladay 801-277-3483
Dive U, Orem 801-224-3483
Aqua Sports, Inc, Saint George 435-688-3483
Sportcove Scuba, Salt Lake City 801-968-7528

VERMONT

Waterfront Diving Center, Burlington 800-283-7282

VIRGINIA

Splash Dive Center, Alexandria 703-823-7680
Ski & Dive, Chantilly 703-263-0427
Virginia Scuba, Manassas 703-369-0098
Adventure Dive & Snorkel, Richmond 804-360-9080

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Anchor Dive Center at Divi, St. Croix 340-773-9479

WASHINGTON

Aqua Sports & Bike, Bellingham 360-734-1770
Poseidon Diving & Water Sports, Burien 206-835-1314
Fort Lewis Scuba, Fort Lewis 253-967-3405
Gateway Scuba, Longview 360-414-3229
Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor 360-675-1112
Capital Divers, Olympia 360-866-3684
Port Townsend Dive Shop, Inc, Port Townsend 360-379-3653
Underwater Sports, Seattle 206-362-3310
Thunder Reef Divers, Vancouver 360-573-8507
Orca Scuba Center, Wenatchee 509-665-0660
Bubbles Below, Woodinville 425-424-3483

WEST VIRGINIA

T.L. Velas Diving & Sply, Wheeling 304-242-3676

WISCONSIN

Mountain Bay, Appleton 920-731-3652
Diver's Realm Inc, Appleton 920-831-0126
Green Bay Scuba Shop, Inc, Green Bay 920-498-8499
Diversions Scuba, Madison 608-238-4803
Crabby Hermit, Middletown 608-833-4143
Divepoint Scuba, Stevens Point 715-344-3483
Timber Bay Sport & Dive Center, Woodruff 715-358-7529

WYOMING

Northern Divers, Mills 307-577-4114

Note: If you are currently not a Rodale's Golden Tank Retailer and are interested in being one, contact Andrea DeFanti at 1-800-845-8050 (Ext 2) or e-mail her at Andrea.DeFanti@Rodale.com. You must sign up by September 15, 2004 to be included in our next listing.

> PETER HUGHES DIVING

Advertisement



Get the best Belize has to offer aboard the luxurious Sun Dancer II

The flagship of the Dancer Fleet® is a 138-foot vessel carrying 20 guests to the offshore atolls of Belize. With all the amenities of a fine hotel, *Sun Dancer II* offers private baths, air-conditioning throughout, warm showers on the dive deck, gourmet meals with tableside service, and special touches like in-room morning beverage service, hot chocolate after night dives, and even a sweet treat on your pillow at turn-down.

THE DIVING

Typical itineraries will take divers to Lighthouse Reef where the fish are plentiful with schools of horse-eyed jacks and thousands of silversides in many swim-throughs. A small green frogfish at Aquarium dive site and a red frogfish at Half Moon Caye delight divers and will pose nicely while photographers click away. Eagle rays are frequent visitors and the spectacular color of the plentiful sponges on the walls makes for a perfect backdrop for octopus and schools of squid during night dives.

THE PACKAGE

- Seven nights on board *M/V Sun Dancer II*
- All meals and beverages (including well brands of alcohol and local beer)
- Transfers from/to Belize International Airport
- 5 1/2 days of diving, with up to 5 dives per day

From June 26 through December 24, packages start at only \$1495 per person, plus \$65 port charge and \$15 recompression chamber fee.

CONTACT

800-9DANCER

dancer@peterhughes.com

www.peterhughes.com

> UNCOMMON ADVENTURES

Advertisement

Exotic Land & Sea Adventures

If you're looking for the common Caribbean dive trip on a budget, you can look elsewhere. If you want an exotic and unique trip that offers world-class diving and so much more, contact Uncommon Adventures!



Owner (and veteran diver) Jim Harlan opened Uncommon Adventures after more than 25 years circumnavigating the globe in search of unique dive and adventure destinations. The result is a company with a staff that provides deeply personal experiences for the diver who wants an uncommon adventure above and below the surface.

Uncommon Adventures' great web site outlines the wide range of destinations for dive and land adventures. Dream destinations include: Africa (diving and a safari in one trip!); Asia (from Indonesia to Thailand); the Indian Ocean (Seychelles and Maldives diving); the South Pacific (where Jim makes sure divers experience the varied cultures); Central America (ecotourism makes for great water- and land-based trips); South America (including the Amazon and the Galapagos); and some uncommon Caribbean trips where the adventure is more important than the price.

CONTACT

888-390-9675

www.uncommonadventures.com or
theworld@uncommonadventures.com

"The mistake many divers make is that they don't take the time to see the country," says Harlan. "We're the company to call when you want to take your dive vacation to the next level, above and below sea level."

A Career to Dive For

If you love to dive, are a motivated self-starter, and seek some of the closest camaraderie available in the civilian world, then a career in commercial diving may be ideal—and The Ocean Corporation may be the ideal place to start.



"This is a great industry for someone who doesn't want to work behind a desk," says Ocean Corporation's president and principal owner, John S. Wood. "Our job starts where the land stops—which includes two-thirds of the world's surface."

The Ocean Corporation has been training commercial divers since 1969 and the resulting reputation means Ocean Corp graduates are among the most sought-after in the industry. Their 30-week program is renowned for its quality, conditions, and results. Ocean Corp graduates become highly-skilled underwater construction workers, able to handle a wide variety of tasks in varied places and conditions.

Wood says personal attention is the key. "Potential, current, and past students all know they can pick up the phone and talk to me personally," Wood states. "In addition, when you graduate, you become part of our alumni fraternity—and that means a lot in this small and fraternal industry," continues Wood.

The Houston area is also an ideal location to learn. Training takes place in a clean and safe environment, with the warm water making learning comfortable. The Houston location also means future employers visit the school often, in that a majority of commercial diving's billed hours happen in the Gulf of Mexico. Another important factor is the lower cost of living, making the 30-week stay economical.

This all means The Ocean Corporation is the place to contact if you think commercial diving is for you. Just pick up the phone or visit their extensive web site to learn more.



CONTACT

THE OCEAN CORPORATION
1-800-321-0298
www.oceancorp.com

Alaska/British Columbia

116' NAUTILUS EXPLORER. Peak season live-aboard dive expeditions in British Columbia and Alaska. Departures from Vancouver, Sitka and Juneau. www.nautilusexplorer.com, info@nautilusexplorer.com. 1-888-434-8322.

Australia

SPIRIT OF FREEDOM - Cruise in comfort to the Cod Hole and Coral Sea on 120' luxury vessel. info@spiritoffreedom.com.au, www.spiritoffreedom.com.au

Bahamas

DIVE ABACO! A Marsh harbour tradition since 1978! Full service dive/snorkel centers. NAUI, PADI, YMCA & CMAS. www.diveabaco.com, 800-247-5338

Bay Islands, Honduras

DIVE ROATAN'S MARINE PARK from the doorstep of your cabin! One week of diving from \$349/pp. Las Rocas Resort, 800-844-3765, www.lasrocasresort.com/scubadiving
FOR SALE - Roatan oceanfront scuba diving hotel. 14 rooms, 2 boats, fully equipped, clear legal title. 800-328-8897, email reefdiving@aol.com

UTILA LODGE, Honduras, Bay Islands - Free "Try Nitrox" dive! Complete scuba vacation & training facility. PADI 5-Star CDC, rebreather friendly, whale shark research station, chamber on-site. Group incentives. The little resort with HUGE DIVING! uti12@roatan.com, 800-282-8932, www.utilalodge.com/12

Belize

BELIZE'S BEST DIVING w/the Radisson Fort George Hotel & Marina. Turneffe, Barrier Reef, Lighthouse, Blue Hole, training, PADI instruction & courses. Dive shop, marina, 102 rooms, tour desk, 2 pools. Two restaurants, coffee shop, & bar. amin.dredge@radisson.com, www.radisson.com/belizecitybz or call 1-800-333-3333.

SAINT GEORGE'S LODGE - (www.gooddiving.com). Resort through Nitrox certs. Overwater cabanas. Excellent food, diving, & instruction since 1977. Arrive/depart daily. Belize: (501)220-4444, 1-800-678-6871

TURNEFFE FLATS - Quality, personalized diving from our private resort on the Turneffe Atoll. Friendly staff, air-conditioned accommodations, delicious food. 1-800-815-1304/605-578-1304.

Bonaire

SAND DOLLAR CONDOS/OWNER RENTALS - 203-323-1000. Luxury oceanfront units at attractive rates. Expert trip planning & advice. www.gotobonaire.com or info@gotobonaire.com

BRUCE BOWKER'S CARIB INN - P.O. Box 68, Bonaire, N.A. PADI Gold Palm. A/C, TV, pool. Phone 011-599-717-8819 8am-5pm, fax 011-599-717-5295. Email bruce@caribinn.com, www.caribinn.com

British Virgin Islands

ONE STOP SHOPPING for the BVI. www.bviscuba.org

Cayman Islands

GRAND CAYMAN DIVETECH & COBALT COAST RESORT - Unbeatable diving at top-notch resort. Package starts with 4 nights, 3 2-tank boat dives \$775pp. Up to 7 nights, 6 days of 2-tank boat dives \$1351pp. All packages include unlimited shore diving, breakfast, R/T transfers, gov. tax+serv.charge (valid until Apr 17, 2004). Dive, sleep & eat at top-rated resort. Check us out at www.cobaltcoast.com, www.divetech.com, call 1-866-622-9626.

GRAND CAYMAN - Quiet, luxury great value beachfront cottage. Close to dive center, grocery store, restaurants. Stunning views. www.grandcaymanbeachvilla.com

OCEAN FRONTIERS - EAST END Less crowds... More vacation! Offering spectacular diving & award-winning staff. With luxury accommodations at either The Reef Resort or Compass Point. Contact us today for dive vacation packages at unbelievable prices.

info@oceanfrontiers.com, www.oceanfrontiers.com/rodales
888-232-0541, International: 345-947-0000

TREASURE ISLAND DIVERS - Stay at the affordable Wyndham Sunshine Suites Resort, Grand Cayman w/full kitchens & everyday low dive packages. www.tidivers.com/suites 800-872-7552

Costa Rica

ADVENTURE & DIVE TOURS - "Costa Rica is our business." SPECIALS: May 1 - Dec. 14. Customized tours. Volcanoes, rafting, rainforest, canopy, discounted air. CRnature@aol.com, <http://www.diveguideint.com/p1731a.htm>, 800-938-9767.

Fiji

FIJI - Beachfront property. Adjacent dive resorts. 4 different islands. From \$19K. Owner financing w/10% down. No qualifying, freehold. 888-FIJI-LAND, www.fijirealestate.com

Florida

A DIVE & SNORKEL MANATEE TOUR! Manatee tours year-round. Learn to scuba dive in 2 days w/waterfront lodging. \$299 pp/do. 800-291-DIVE (3483), www.americanprodiving.com

A GREAT MANATEE ENCOUNTER - Dive tours & all levels of instruction. Kayak rentals on Crystal River. Rental homes on waterfront property. www.birdsunderwater.com, 800-771-2763.

Florida Keys

KEY LARGO'S INTIMATE CARIBBEAN-STYLE RESORT - Discover the lush tropical surroundings of Amy Slate's Amoray Dive Resort. Deluxe rooms & villas overlooking the Florida Bay include continental breakfast & use of snorkeling equipment, waterfront pool, & beach. Enjoy scuba, snorkel, wreck & reef trips aboard our spacious 45' catamaran to Pennekamp Park & Marine Sanctuary! Dive the *Spiegel Grove* & *Duane* wrecks. Underwater or sunset weddings. PADI, YMCA, NAUI, & BSAC instruction available. Customer service & satisfaction is our #1 priority. Call 1-800-4-AMORAY or visit www.amoray.com

KEY WEST & FLORIDA KEYS DIVE EXPERTS! Island Escapes dive packages offer great value on the best of the islands! www.TheIslandEscapes.com, 305-293-6981.

Hawaii

AAA+ SCUBA SHACK MAUI - Voted #1 Operator & #1 Staff in Hawaii in RSD's 2002 & 2003 Top 100. Highest Scores in Aug 2003 RSD's Best of the Pacific. Best dive & dive/condo package prices on Maui. www.scubashack.com 877-213-4488 "#1 in Hawaii"

DIVE & SEA MAUI - South Maui's best 6 passenger Dive Boat Charter since 1989. 1-800-526-9915 www.diveandseamaui.com

LAHAINA DIVERS - Maui. 5-Star Package Deal - \$525/pp. Includes 5 (2-tank) boat charters & unlimited tanks for shore diving. 800-998-3483, www.lahainadivers.com

Mexico

116' NAUTILUS EXPLORER. Peak season live-aboard dive expeditions in the Sea of Cortez & to Socorro Island. Departures from La Paz & Cabo. www.nautilusexplorer.com, info@nautilusexplorer.com. 1-888-434-8322.

BAJA EXPEDITIONS - SEA OF CORTEZ. Live-aboard & day dive hotel packages from La Paz. Call 800-843-6967. E-mail: travel@bajaex.com, web: www.bajaex.com

COZUMEL - Deluxe waterfront condo! Pool, beach, walk to town, private jacuzzi. Dive packages (condo dock pickup/dropoff). Sleeps 6-8. \$225/night. www.royaldivers.com; 1-800-222-ROYL; royldiv@aol.com
COZUMEL GETAWAYS - 800-346-9470 X 77. The place to stay for divers in the know. Our 3-5 BR villas & 2 BR apts. offer A/C, kitchens, maid svc., pool & privacy. See it all at www.cozumelgetaways.com

COZUMEL - INEXPENSIVE SAFARI INN, luxury Condomel & Aqua Safari diving since 1966. We put it together for you. www.aquasafari.com, 011-52-987-87-20101

EXTEND YOUR BOTTOM TIME - with DIVE WITH MARTIN - Dive your computer limits! Dive Palancar to Punta Sur on the island's fastest boats. 3-day/2-tank boat dive pkg \$150 includes FREE NIGHT DIVE, FREE use of BCD, & regulator w/computer! All NEW gear! Personal service for discount air, hotel & dive pkgs. Vacation Connection 1-888-512-8747, sburton@airmail.net

Puerto Rico

RINCON, PUERTO RICO - Unspoiled diving - Desecheo & Mona Islands. 100' vis, pristine reefs. No crowds. Vacation rental cabanas: www.tropicabanas.com 787-823-2967.

St. Lucia

ANSE CHASTANET RESORT - 888 GO-LUCIA (465-8242) Scenic hideaway in heart of marine reserves w/St. Lucia's premier scuba facility on site, 600 acres, 2 Beaches, 49 rooms. SSI Platinum/PADI scuba. Watersports, beach & boat snorkeling, spa, boutiques, art gallery, 10 miles of hiking & biking trails, mountain bike centre w/50 Cannondale bikes. www.ansechastanet.com, www.scubastlucia.com

Tahiti

DIVE TAHITI BLUE - Your dive travel specialist for Tahiti & Her Islands. Co-owned by an American divemaster & Tahitian native, we live & dive here. We know how to create your dream vacation. Visit us online! www.divetahitiblue.com

Thailand

M/Y AQUA ONE: 115ft. live-aboard, 16 pax in 8 cabins, A/C, private bathroom, Nitrox, E-6 cruises in Thailand, Burma, Andaman Islands in November-May, Komodo - Alor in Indonesia in June-October. www.dive-aquasports.com e-mail: diveaqualine@comcast.net Toll Free 1-888-996-2782

Dive Travel Specialists

EVERYWHERE WORTH DIVING IN THE CARIBBEAN! Fast, personal service. Complete dive vacations, eco/land tours, air too. www.caribbeandivevacations.com, 888-462-8875

REEF & RAINFOREST - Customized land-based & live-aboard dive & adventure trips worldwide. Let our experience be your guide. www.reefrainforest.com, 800-794-9767.

Help Wanted

SCUBA PROGRAM DIRECTOR: supervise SCUBA program for Seacamp, a marine science/SCUBA camp for teens. Must have active SCUBA Instructor certification (NAUI Preferred) & minimum three years teaching experience. Contact Seacamp, 305-872-2331 or email resume to SCUBADirectorsearch@seacamp.org, www.seacamp.org
NAUI INSTRUCTORS NEEDED to teach at Seacamp in the Florida Keys. Seacamp is a marine science/SCUBA summer camp for teens. Employment offered May-Aug, 2004. Includes salary, insurance allowance, room & board, & more! Contact Seacamp Personell Office at 305-872-2331 or email resume to staffrmd@seacamp.org, www.seacamp.org

Of Interest to All

MARINE LIFE BOOKS - A complete library for divers - identification, Behavior, CD-ROMS. Paul Humann & Ned DeLoach. www.fishid.com, 800-737-6558

Scuba Shop For Sale

DIVESHOPSFORSALE.COM - Sell, buy or learn how to successfully operate a PROFITABLE Dive business.

Web Sites

FREE LOGBOOK! - Log dives & attach pictures on www.diverecord.com, your personal logbook on the Internet. Learn from the vast logged experience.

HAWAII ONLINE TRAVEL TOOL - SCUBA, Snorkeling, beaches & activities w/maps. www.BestOfTheHawaiianIslands.info Plan your trip for fun & efficiency.

Hawk's Nest
RESORT & MARINA - Cat Island, Bahamas

- Miles of vertical walls
- 150' plus visibility
- Personalized service guaranteed
- PADI Resort

"DIVE CAT ISLAND"
BAHAMAS

Toll free: 1-800-688-4752
Direct: 1-242-342-7050 • Fax: 1-242-342-7051
E-mail: info@hawks-nest.com • www.hawks-nest.com

DIFFERENTIAL MAGNETOMETERS

WIDE SENSOR SEPARATION (INVERSE 3RD POWER FALL OFF OF SIGNAL WITH DISTANCE INSTEAD OF INVERSE 4TH)

CONTINUOUS SWATH (0.02 GAMMAS (NANOTESLAS))

MARINE, LAND, OR AIRBORNE FROM \$1700.00

www.mildanresearch.com
phone: 214-691-4925

Insure Your Gear And Photography Equipment

AIRLINE LOSS FLOOD DAMAGE THEFT

Divers Equipment Protection Program

888-678-4096 www.equipmentprotection.com

SIMPLY THE BEST THERE IS

BVIdiving.com
GALAPAGOSdiving.com
800-648-3393

Underwater Photo Packages
Let us help you build yours!!!

GATES **Over 16 Years Experience** **Subal C10 Canon**

603-432-1997
Visit Our Web Site: www.uwphoto.com

Bilikiki Cruises Ltd.
SOLOMON ISLANDS

MV Spirit of Solomons
MV Bilikiki

1-800-663-5363
E-mail: bilikiki@horizon.bc.ca
Web: www.bilikiki.com

There's a life to be saved right now.

Please give blood.
Call 1-800 GIVE LIFE

Ad Council **American Red Cross**

DIVE ALL DAY WITH SUPER SNORKEL

Enjoy real diving freedom with an unlimited air supply! It's compact and lightweight. You can take it to your favorite dive spots.

Call or Write for info. on all models

INNOVATIVE DESIGNS, INC.
3785 Alt. 19 N. Suite R / Palm Harbor, FL 34683
(727) 934-4619 • www.SUPERSNORKEL.COM

Bill & Nowdla

KEEFE'S
Bimini Undersea
Bimini in the Bahamas

SCUBA Diving, Snorkeling and Wild Dolphin Adventures on the beautiful island of Bimini in the Bahamas

1-800-348-4644
www.biminiundersea.com

Our front yard is a wreck.
24 hours a day.

www.cocoviewresort.com/12
1-800-282-8932 • e-mail: ccv12@roatan.com

www.dive-logs.com

Everything you need to log a dive!

- ☒ All sizes available
- ☒ Easy to use designs
- ☒ Compact dive log binders
- ☒ Design your own log book stamp

Worldwide delivery!

Receive: **A New Tshirt Each Month**

Gift Memberships Available

ScubaShirtClub.com

Dive Shops from Around the Country & the World
Shop Owners!! We Pay You \$\$\$ for Promoting Your Business

Click or Call
800-990-TEES (8397)

VACATION RENTALS

WWW.VACATIONWEEKS.COM

Spectacular Resorts, Spectacular Diving. Experience crystal clear waters, colorful coral reefs and remote caves. Experienced diver or first-timer, visit one of our places and have your dream come true. Come stay with us at **ROYAL SUNSET RESORT**, Cancun, Mexico. **GREAT RESORTS, GREAT RATES.** www.VacationWeeks.com
800-441-0453

ST. CROIX - USVI

Luxurious St. Croix Villa - Become one with the sea as the healing rhythm of the waves soothes your body, mind and soul at this luxurious retreat. Walk out the door to premiere Caribbean shore diving, stunning reefs, walls & beautiful beaches. 2 luxury sea-view suites, heated pool & spa, games room and dive station. Come take the virtual tour at **www.2dive4.net**. **2DIVE4, MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR DIVERS.** (800) 564-5350.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Just 11 charming cottages on a palm fringed, white-sand beach, on an almost uninhabited island w/oceanfront restaurant & bar. Casual, relaxed & friendly. Great snorkeling, SCUBA & boat trips: 20+ dives within 15 minutes. Summer Dive Package: \$1099/pp including 7 nights, meals, taxes, snorkeling & five two-tank dives. **SUPER SPECIAL:** same package in Aug. & Sept. only \$799/pp! Brochure: 800-542-4624 or www.cooper-island.com.

TRAVEL

WINDJAMMER

Windjammer Barefoot Cruise, Ltd. **MUCH MORE THAN A LIVE-ABOARD!** Ride trade winds aboard our beautiful Tall Ships. Cruise and dive in ports of call from the Bahamas, Virgin Islands and the West Indies. Let the crew do all the work as you explore unspoiled tropical hide-a-ways and exotic Carribean Islands. **DIVE** exotic anchorages on an adventure through paradise. Six and thirteen day cruises. Don't forget December is Dive Month. Call 800-327-2601 Dept 66 and ask for a dive brochure. **www.windjammer.com**

LOOK



LIZARDFISH EATING shrimp goby, Lembeh Strait, Indonesia.

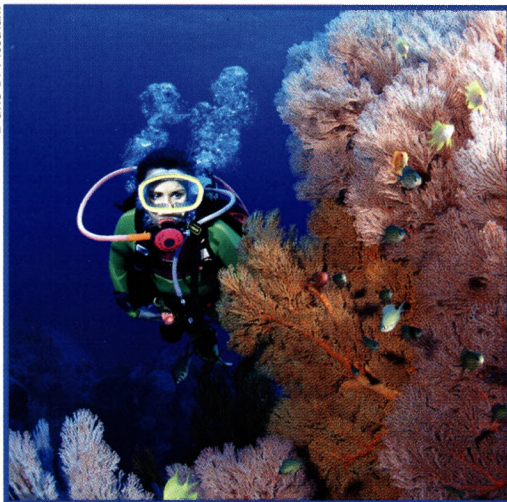
Discover UNDERWATER Photography

Beginner, Amateur, or Pro Film, Digital, or Video

Want to relive those diving adventures again and again?

Ikelite has the tools to help you capture the moment and turn it into an image that will live forever. Our Auto35 requires no experience, simply point and shoot for great prints. If you shoot with a digital camera we offer housings and digital strobes designed to work with digital cameras, even those using preflash.

David B. Fleetham



ikelite
underwater systems
50 W. 33rd. Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-923-4523
www.ikelite.com

For additional information
contact your local dive shop or
Ikelite for a free catalog.

Ikelite's digital and film SLR cases house some of the worlds most sophisticated SLR cameras and lenses. Our Substrobes and digital light meter help you achieve that perfect balanced lighting for spectacular color. If its underwater video you want, no one houses more models of video cameras than Ikelite. Capture the underwater worlds rainbow of colors on your video with the Ikelite Pro Video-Lite.

Auto35 housing and Superview 35mm camera. Start with point and shoot, when you want to expand your photographic capabilities add the optional Macro Kit or Substrobe A35.



Digital Housing Models for:
Canon
Nikon
Olympus
Sony



Digital SLR Housings for:
Canon EOS Digital Rebel
Canon EOS 10D
Canon EOS D30
Canon EOS D60
Nikon D100
Nikon D70



Ikelite Substrobes:
Substrobe A35
Substrobe DS50
Substrobe 100
Substrobe DS125
Substrobe 200
Substrobe 400



Housings for Sony, JVC and Canon camcorders. Capture all the color with the Pro Video-Lite



When you're ready to get serious about underwater imaging, get out of the hammock and join the family.

Underwater
SEA&SEA
U.S.A.
Imaging Gear

DX3000G

Compact and easy to use this 3.24 megapixel digital camera features the world's shortest "shutter lag" for any digital camera in this category — just 0.14 seconds!



AquaPix

DX-3100

The world's first fully-integrated underwater digital camera — no external housing necessary!



www.seaandsea.com

**Motor
Marine
III**

More features and controls than ever before make it the perfect camera for beginner and experienced photographers alike.

